

A Publication of

WORKSHOP[®] MD

TEN CREATIVE USES FOR WET/DRY VACS



WORKSHOP[®] MD

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TEN CREATIVE USES**10 USES
FOR A
WET/DRY
VAC THAT
YOU MAY
HAVE NOT
CONSIDERED**

You may not have even considered do this, but your wet/dry vac may make your work so much easier.

1. CLEAN OUT A BBQ PIT
2. PUMP OUT A FLOODED BASEMENT
3. FISHING PIPE
4. KITCHEN GOOPIES
5. UNCLOG SINK DRAINS
6. INFLATE POOL TOYS, RAFTS, ETC
7. CLEAN OUT A FIREPLACE
8. CLEAN OUT AQUARIUMS
9. REMOVE SNOWY MESSSES FROM FLOORS, STAIRS, OR EVEN SIDEWALKS
10. RETRIEVE ITEMS FROM A SINK DRAIN

USES IN DEPTH**Creative Uses for a Wet/Dry Vacuum :**

Most people either own a wet/dry vacuum now, or have at least used one. A wet/dry vac is a highly versatile vacuum that can safely pick up liquids as well as dirt and debris of various sizes. These tools can be used around the house or in the garage, but they are also ideal for construction and Do-It-Yourself clean-up.

However, they can be used for more than you may have dreamed! Here are top 10 Creative Uses for a wet/dry shop vac brought to you by the people of WORKSHOP.

**Creative Use #1 :
Clean Out A Barbecue Pit**

We all love grilling and Barbecuing throughout the year. Before pouring in the charcoal or lighting the fire you need to clean the grill out of the ash and debris from the previous event. This helps the fire breath, and helps the chef know how to regulate the temperature.

**NUMBER 1-
CLEAN BBQ
PIT**

1. Scrape the grill removing particles and debris
2. Remove top grill and anything else required that may impeded progress.
3. Make sure your vac is using a fine dust filter so that the ash will be captured. Note: If your vac is not equipped with a fine debris or HEPA material filter to capture ash, any vac can throw the ash out the exhaust.

USES IN DEPTH

4. Install Dust Bag if not already installed. While this job does not require a dust collection bag, it is recommended to keep disposal quick, easy, and clean.
5. Collect cold ashes and debris. **DO NOT PICK UP HOT ASHES** (This is never a good idea).
6. Open vac and dispose of the dust bag.

**NUMBER 2-
FLOODED
BASEMENT****Creative Use #2:
Pump Out A Flooded Basement**

It is not a secret that wet/dry vacs are ideal to suck up and clean large amounts of water, and if your pipes break or your basement floods it is likely the first place you turn. Many of the larger wet/dry vacuums have a drain in the collection drum allowing for easier emptying. But using an accessory pump allows you to hook up a hose and pump the collected water right back outside where it belongs!

1. Remove drain cap and install pump accessory. It will screw onto the drain, and then a garden hose will attach to the pump a valve.
2. With the valve shut off, collect the water in your basement
3. Once the unit is full shut off the vac, open the valve and turn on the pump
4. Turn on vac and suck item up into the collection drum.
5. The water will be pumped through the hose to where you are draining this run-off
6. When the collection drum is emptied repeat process.

USES IN DEPTH

Creative Use #3.**Fish Wire Through Pipe**

Sometimes you need to run or “fish” electrical, speaker, phone or internet wire through an existing pipe or conduit. You can keep fighting with pushing it through, but as always there is an easier way. Pull it through with a wet/dry vac.

**NUMBER 3-
FISH WIRE
THROUGH PIPE**

1. Unwind several feet of string so that it is enough to make it through the section of pipe.
2. Feed the string into the end of the pipe. (Sometimes it is helpful to tie the string around a small ball of paper to add surface area the vac can pull on.
3. On the opposite end of the attach the hose and create the best seal possible
4. Turn on and pull the string through. Carefully watch the end and check for the string, so that it is not pulling a too much of sting into the drum.
5. Tie string to wire and ensure with electrical tape, and slowly pull through the pipe.

Creative Use #4.**Kitchen Goopies**

What are kitchen goopies? This is all the messes that contain liquid, food, sauce, and other kitchen liquify food spills. Paper towels are not always quicker, easier, or cheaper. The we/dry vac may be ideal when someone spills their soggy bran cereal and milk, especially when the bowl broke leaving shards on the floor. Or if you dropped an egg drops on the floor.

**NUMBER 4-
KITCHEN
GOOPIES**

USES IN DEPTH

1. Insert Hose
2. Choose appropriate nozzle (likely utility and maybe wet)
3. Turn it on, and lift away the kitchen goopies and food debris
4. *Note:* Anytime you use a wet/dry vac, especially for food or debris that can leave an odor, be sure to thoroughly clean and rinse off as a part of a good maintenance program.

**NUMBER 5-
UNCLOG SINK
DRAINS****Creative Use #5 :
Unclog Sink Drains**

That's right, while many have never thought of using a wet/dry vac to unclog a pipe, it can do exactly that. Not everyone has a drain snake, and chemicals can be dangerous or cause damage. So quickly garb the wet/dry workshop vacuum, and push that clog out.

1. If the sink is full of water, to help reduce splash back suck out the water in the sink.
2. Insert your hose into the exhaust port.
3. If applicable seal the drain of the adjoining sinks to prevent pressure loss. This may need to be held
4. As far as possible place the end of the hose into the drain. Depending on the hose you have this maybe more effective by using an adaptor to reduce the hose diameter.
5. Some sinks have strainer that would need to be removed to run the

USES IN DEPTH

hose into the pipe

6. *Note:* Wear eye protection foam anything blowing back. This can especially be possible if you do not get the hose down the drain.

Creative Use #6.**Inflate Pool Toys, Rafts, Etc**

Blue in the face from blowing and blowing on the the kid's pool toys?

Want to lay out on a raft and enjoy the day, but can't waste 10 minutes huffing and puffing to inflate. Or for that matter sometime items are left inflates just so they don't have that issue, but then they tear or pop. Use your wet/dry vacuum to do the job instead.

**NUMBER 6-
INFLATE
POOL TOYS**

1. Insert your hose into the exhaust port.
2. Put an inflator nozzle onto hose (using adapter if required) and insert into valve.
3. If you don't have the appropriate nozzle you can hold the nozzle over the valve while holding it open with your finger and thumb. However, this method is less effective
4. Turn on vac and inflate
5. Stop and close valve sealing air within.

Creative Use #7.**Clean Out A Fireplace**

Not everyone has a fireplace, but cleaning out your fireplace can be messy. Instead of sweeping and scooping the ashes into the trash, and spreading the ash throughout your house Suck It Up with a wet/dry vacuum.

**NUMBER 7-
CLEAN
FIREPLACE**

USES IN DEPTH

1. Make sure your vac is using a fine dust filter so that the ash will be captured. Note: If your vac is not equipped with a fine debris or HEPA material filter to capture ash, any vac can throw the ash out the exhaust.
2. Install Dust Bag if not already installed. While this job does not require a dust collection bag, it is recommended to keep disposal quick, easy, and clean.
3. Collect cold ashes and larger debris. DO NOT PICK UP HOT ASHES (*This is never a good idea*).
4. Open vac and dispose of the dust bag.

**NUMBER 8-
CLEAN
AQUARIUMS****Creative Use #8 :
Clean Out Aquariums**

When it's time to clean or remove the water from your aquarium, don't reach for a pitcher or small bucket to dip out the water, reach for your wet/dry vac and make the job quicker and easier.

Note: On whole a vac can lift water very quickly, be careful not to over fill the vacuum's collection drum.

1. If cleaning, but not emptying, there are a few options. One is to use a 1-1/4" hose (may require adapter) and attach to the top of the uplift tube of your gravel filter. Turn on and off the vac to suck the nitrates from out of the gravel.
2. If you don't use a gravel filter remove decorations and place in clean bucket. Then wrap panty hose or similar material to end of hose or extension wand. Hold it in place with heavy duty rubber band. Push

USES IN DEPTH

down to bottom to the gravel. Turn vac on and off in shore bursts to remove nitrates and debris from gravel. A vac is very powerful and removes water quickly so do not leave on. If you left fish in the tank while cleaning be careful not to capture fish.

3. If emptying, after removing fish (if any) remove all decorations and accessories. Insert hose and turn on vac to remove water. Note the hose may pull when engaged due to the power. Depending on size you may need to drain vac before finishing tank. If you plan to reuse gravel in the future you may also wish to collect the gravel after the bulk of the water has been removed.

Creative Use #9.
Remove Snowy Messes From Floors, Stairs, Or Even Sidewalks

Without question, a family can track the winter snow and salty messes from our vehicles into our homes. Instead of trying to scoop, grab, scrap and then dry such a mess why not use the wet/dry vac?

1. Using your vac with a utility nozzle suck up the bulk of the snow
2. Replace the Utility nozzle with the Wet Nozzle and with its squeegee suck up the moisture left on your floor and stairs.
3. If outdoor and appropriate add salt to prevent additional snowfall from freezing and creating a danger

**NUMBER 9-
REMOVE
SNOWY MESS**

Creative Use #10.
Retrieve Items From A Sink Drain

Most people have dropped something down the drain, whether it was a ring when doing dishes, or something you were rinsing off. If you stop

**NUMBER 10-
RETRIEVE ITEM
FROM DRAIN**

USES IN DEPTH

the running water immediately it may have stopped in what is called the P-trap, and may be close enough to retrieve it with your wet/dry vacuum.

1. Do **NOT** run water.
2. If applicable seal the drain of the adjoining sinks to prevent suction loss.
3. Seal vac hose to drain with p-trap. Determine this by looking in the cabinet and look for a "U" shaped section of pipe.
4. Turn on vac and suck item up into the collection drum.
5. *Option:* If you use panty-hose on end of hose may filter the item out of water and prevent it from bouncing around the collection drum.

Note: Success will vary based on sink and pipes, as well as if the item was not washed away.

WARNINGS AND NOTES :

ALWAYS follow all warnings and instructions found in your owner's manual. In the event any information found here conflicts with your specific owner's manual that came with your product then that information supersedes anything found herewith in.

OWNER'S MANUAL :

Keep your owner's manual to refer to, and follow all warning and instructions.

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