

A Publication of

WORKSHOP[®] MD

HOW TO CLEAN / MAINTAIN YOUR WET/DRY VAC FILTER



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INTRODUCTION

The Problem :

Like most vacs your wet/dry vac contains a filter, and as it becomes dirty air flow is reduced and performance effected. Further, if the filter becomes damaged debris may enter the fan impeller and cause damage.

Proof :

We know a clogged filter can block airflow. And if the airflow is blocked suction is reduced. And if blocked for extended periods of time it can put an additional stress on your vac's motor. Generally, the harder any motor works the shorter it's life is likely to be, and even if it continues to work you may have reduced performance.

Additional Issues :

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to maintain their wet/dry vac filter, but many may still hold reservations. However, it is a simple process, that WORKSHOP is happy to walk through.

The Standard Solution:

Most wet/dry vac companies offer some tips or guidelines in their owner's manuals on how to clean and maintain your filter, but this may be the extent of the resources offered.

The WORKSHOP Solution :

WORKSHOP is different. We do offer similar guidelines in our owner's manuals, and we make them available on our website as well as other document websites for user convenience, but we also offer additional resources that may assist in extending the life of your wet/dry vac and keeping optimum performance.

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING FILTERS

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. Do not operate your vacuum without the correct filter cage and float, as they prevent liquid from entering the impeller and damaging the motor.

MAINTAIN VAC FILTERS- 3 BASIC TIPS

MAINTAIN WET/DRY VAC FILTERS :

Most users consider wet/dry vacs powerful. None-the-less keeping your vacuum's filter maintained can improve performance and protect the life of your vacuum. To do this WORKSHOP recommends

1. DON'T USE YOUR VACUUM WITHOUT A FILTER.

Doing so with everyday debris may allow the debris to enter the impeller and motor causing damage or shortening the life of a wet/dry vac. With fine dust not only can the abrasive particles enter your motor possibly shortening life, but it will also blow the fine debris back into the air causing a mess or possible health hazard (see information from ALA about breathing micro particles). When picking up high-volume water many recommend removing your paper filter, however, a safer alternative is to use a specialized wet filter to protect your investment and get better results

2. INSPECT FILTER

Before use make sure your filter is not torn or damaged. If

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your filter has torn due to age or use it needs to be replaced. Much like running without a filter debris can enter the system can cause damage or shorten life. It is cheaper and easier to replace the filter than replacing the vacuum, or dealing with the down time until the vac is replaced.

3. MAINTAIN AFTER USE

Following a maintenance routine after every use prevents most issues. This includes emptying drum, drying wet filters, etc. Find a full list of tips in the WORKSHOP white paper titled "Top Ten Maintenance Tips For Most Wet/Dry Vacs" available from WORKSHOPvac.com

CLEANING A DRY FILTER:

1. Unplug Power Cord-

• Always unplug the power cord before cleaning or removing the filter. This step prevents accidents.

2. Well-Ventilated Area -

• It is recommended to clean the Filter in an open, ventilated area. Because cleaning will put dust in the air it SHOULD not be done indoors.

• Note: If you have allergies or health concerns it may be prudent to simply replace the filter.

3. Removing Debris -

• Access Filter- This process varies and is covered more thoroughly in the WORKSHOP white paper titled "How To Change/Replace Your Wet/Dry Vac Filter" available on WORKSHOPvac.com or in your owner's manual.

CLEANING
DRY FILTER

CLEANING WET/DRY VAC FILTERS

- **Method 1- Tapping.** Light cleaning of some dry debris from the filter can be accomplished without removing the filter from the vac. Simply slap your hand or soft brush on top of the handle and allow debris to drop down into the dust drum
- **Remove Filter-** Other methods require the filter to be removed. This process varies and is covered more thoroughly in the **WORKSHOP** white paper titled "How To Change/Replace Your Wet/Dry Vac Filter" available on WORKSHOPvac.com or in your owner's manual.
- **Method 2- Remove & Tap.** For slightly tougher jobs. Gently tap the Filter against the inside wall of your dust drum or a trash can and the debris will loosen and fall.
- **Method 3- Bag & Tap.** This is similar to Method 2, but place the filter in a plastic of garbage bag to collect the debris. This method does collect debris, but because the area is confined it tends to keep debris near the filter to resettle on the paper material, taking longer to thoroughly clean the filter.
- **Method 4- Compressed air.** Using compressed air you can blow the debris off of your filter. It is best to blow from the inside of the filter out to remove the debris. Take care that air pressure (PSI) is not strong enough to damage filter.
- **Method 5- "Wash."** For thorough cleaning, especially when cleaning

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fine dust, you may clean with water. This method often works best if larger debris is removed using other methods first. Tips for using this method is in the next section for cleaning a wet filter.

CLEANING A WET FILTER:**1. Unplug Power Cord-**

- Always unplug the power cord before cleaning or removing the filter. This step prevents accidents.

2. Access & Remove the Filter-

- This process varies and is covered more thoroughly in the WORKSHOP white paper titled "How To Change/Replace Your Wet/Dry Vac Filter" available on WORKSHOPvac.com or in your owner's manual

3. Spray Filter-

- Run water through the Filter from a hose or spigot. Take care that water pressure from the hose is not strong enough to damage filter.

- Tapping filter may help dislodge debris.

4. Dry Filter-

- Allow filter to completely dry out before storing.

**CLEANING
WET FILTER**

WORKSHOP[®]

8100 West Florissant
St. Louis, MO 63136
www.WORKSHOPvacs.com

1-888-455-8724

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