

A Publication of

WORKSHOP[®] MD

TOP TEN MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR MOST WET/DRY VACS



WORKSHOP[®] MD

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INTRODUCTION

The Problem :

Like any electrical or mechanical item when proper maintenance schedules and techniques are not applied to your vacuums, the life of that product may be shortened. You would not go without changing the oil in your automobile and while your vac did not require the same financial investment, you most likely would like it to last and work well as long as possible.

Proof :

We know if the airflow is 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 :

Obviously, not everyone is a mechanic and capable of working on their automobile, but despite any reservations a user may find maintaining their wet/dry vac simple to do.

The Standard Solution:

Most wet/dry vac companies offer some tips or guidelines in their owner's manuals and, some even put these manuals on their website. However, this is typically 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.

TOP TEN TIPS**TOP 10 TIPS
FOR KEEPING
A WET/
DRY VAC
MAINTAINED
AND
RUNNING**

Most users consider wet/dry vacs durable. None-the-less keeping your vacuum maintained can extend its life for years to come.

1. CLEAN THE FILTER AFTER EACH USE
2. CHECK AND CLEAN FILTER CAGE AND FLOAT AFTER EACH USE
3. THOROUGHLY CLEAN THE DRUM AFTER EACH USE
4. USE THE CORRECT FILTER FOR YOUR APPLICATION OR TASK
5. NEVER STORE THE MACHINE WITH LIQUID INSIDE THE TANK
6. MAKE SURE THE HOSE IS FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS OR DEBRIS
7. CLEAN REMAINING AIR VENTS
8. WHILE NOT PLUGGED IN MAKE SURE THE POWER CORD IS NOT CUT, TORE OR FRAYED
9. OIL YOUR CASTERS AND WHEELS
10. FOLLOW ALL WARNINGS, NOTES, AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR OWNERS' MANUAL

TIPS IN DEPTH

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.

CLEANING THE FILTER :

Handle the filter carefully when removing to clean or installing so that it does not rip or tear. If your filter is torn it should be replaced before using the vac. Creases in the filter pleats may occur from installation but typically will not affect the performance of the filter.

**NUMBER 1-
CLEAN THE
FILTER**

Cleaning A Dry Filter *(Recommend outdoors or in proper ventilated area)*

1. Light cleaning of some dry debris from the filter can be accomplished without removing the filter from the vac. Simply slap your hand on top of the handle while the vac is turned off.
2. Remove filter from vac. Gently tap the Filter against the inside wall of your drum and the dust and debris will loosen and fall.
3. For thorough cleaning of a dry Filter with fine dust (no debris) you may run water through it as described under "Cleaning A Wet Filter" Section.

Cleaning A Wet Filter

1. After filter is removed, 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.
2. Allow filter to dry out before storing.

TIPS IN DEPTH

Cleaning A Dust Collection Bag (*Filter Bag*)

1. Remove and dispose of used disposable dust collection bags.
2. Shake out and reuse cloth filter bags. Rinse but don't wash cloth filters because it can cause shrinkage.

**NUMBER 2-
CLEAN THE
FILTER CAGE
AND FLOAT**

CLEANING THE FILTER CAGE & FLOAT:

Once filter has been removed the filter cage and float are visible.

1. Filter cage should be free from any obstructions.
2. The float inside the filter cage should move freely and should be free from any obstruction.
3. If float is removed for cleaning it must be reinstalled facing in the original direction.

**NUMBER 3-
CLEAN YOUR
DRUM**

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE VAC DRUM:

To keep your Wet/Dry Vac looking its best, clean the outside with a cloth dampened with warm water and mild soap.

Cleaning The Drum

1. Dump debris out.
2. Wash drum thoroughly with warm water and mild soap.
3. Wipe out with dry cloth (Via Tip 6). Before prolonged storage or as needed (such as in cases of waste water pick up) the drum should be disinfected.

TIPS IN DEPTH**Disinfecting The Drum**

1. Pour 1 gallon of water and 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach into the drum.
2. Let solution stand for 20 minutes, carefully swishing every few minutes, making sure to wet all inside surfaces of the drum.
3. Empty drum after 20 minutes. Rinse with water until bleach smell is gone. Allow drum to dry completely before sealing the motor on the drum.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT FILTER :

This may seem overwhelming, but the basic idea is find out what fits your make and model of vac, and then determine the best option for your cleaning task.

1. Check with your manufacturer or owner's manual, and find out what filter options are available for your wet/dry vacuum.
2. If vacuuming wet debris you use will a wet application filter, a foam sleeve, or a cloth filter. These serve similar purposes but a wet application filter may help if foam develops in your drum.
3. If vacuuming dry debris you will either use a pleated-paper cartridge filter or a dust collection bag. Cartridge filters come in multiple filtration options: Standard, everyday dirt for typical cleaning tasks; Fine Dust for finer particulate such as dry wall dust, cement dust, or talcum powder; and HEPA media to capture fine dust, allergens, dander, mold, etc.
4. Dust collection bags or 'Filter Bags' make disposal of collected debris easier and clean-up of your vac much faster. Most manufacturers recommend using in conjunction with your cartridge filter.

**NUMBER 4-
USE CORRECT
FILTER**

TIPS IN DEPTH**NUMBER 5-
DO NOT STORE
WET****DO NOT STORE WITH WATER STILL IN TANK :**

This can promote molds and mildew and is not good for the unit.

1. Wipe with dry cloth as you clean each part
2. Allow time to air dry.
3. Using an air mover, blower, or fan may help speed this process.
4. You may run the vac for a couple minutes to help pull air through hose, but never leave your vac running for long periods or unattended.

**NUMBER 6-
CLEAR HOSE****CLEAN HOSE :**

While not in operation, disconnect hose and make sure the hose is free from anything obstructing the path of air by feeling the outside and checking for weighted areas.

**NUMBER 7-
AIR VENTS****AIR VENTS :**

Often many vacs have additional air vents to make sure the motor properly cools. Make sure these vents are free from debris.

**NUMBER 8-
POWER CORD****CORD MAINTENANCE :**

When vacuuming is complete, unplug the cord and wrap it around the motor cover, or in accordance with your owner's manual. If the power cord is damaged, it must be replaced by the manufacturer to reduce the risk of accident.

TIPS IN DEPTH**CASTERS :**

If your casters or wheels are noisy, you may put a drop of oil on the roller shaft or axle to make them quieter. This may also improve mobility. NOTE: Putting too much oil may cause oil to drip and create an unwanted mess.

**NUMBER 9-
CASTERS****OWNER'S MANUAL :**

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

**NUMBER 10-
OWNER'S
MANUAL****CORD & ACCESSORY STORAGE :**

After properly cleaning your vac you should neatly wrap the power cord in accordance with your owner's manual and accessories should be kept in the same area as the vac so they can be readily available. Always store your vac indoors.

**BONUS -
STORAGE**

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