

Vacuum cleaning

fun facts

- Floor coverings throughout the home should be vacuumed at least once a week — high use areas should be vacuumed twice weekly. If you have pets, you may need to vacuum some areas daily.
- In 1938, 27 percent of homes with electricity owned a vacuum cleaner, rising to 40 percent 10 years later. Today, according to the Vacuum Cleaner Manufacturers Association, 98% of households own a vacuum cleaner.
- To remove surface soil, push the vacuum forward several feet in a slow, deliberate motion and then reverse direction.
- The first non-electric vacuum cleaner, a “sweeping machine,” was the Whirlwind model, invented in Chicago in 1869. It had a crank to turn with one hand while pushing with the other hand. Due to the great Chicago fire in 1871, only two of these machines exist today.
- After the electric iron, the vacuum cleaner was the most popular electric appliance in the home from 1920 to 1960.
- Use only vacuums bearing the CRI vacuum cleaner testing program green label. And remember to change your vacuum’s disposable bag regularly — or clean the permanent one — and check for worn belts.
- One popular 1913 vacuum came in six different models and had attachments for bare floors, walls, upholstery and crevices. It even could be used as a blower for drying hair. In the mid-1800s, vacuum cleaners could be found housed in exquisite cabinetry that doubled as a coffee table, sidebar or cocktail bar.
- Vacuuming is the single-most effective and economical means of keeping floor coverings clean and removing dust and allergens from the indoor environment. It has been proven that 90% to 95% of all dry soil by weight can be removed from carpet by routine vacuuming.
- The concept of today’s electric vacuum cleaner was invented in 1901 by H.C. Booth and took the form of a large, horse-drawn, petrol-driven unit which was parked outside the building. The unit fed long hoses through the windows of the room to be cleaned.
- Before electricity, an alternative to beating the carpet over a porch rail, clothesline, or windowsill was to sprinkle a carpet with tealeaves. In theory, this attracted dust and dirt to the surface ready to be swept.
- Vacuum cleaners have the largest sales volume of any major appliance in this country, with the U.S. ranking No. 1 in worldwide sales. In 1996, 15 million full-sized vacuum cleaners were sold here. About 7 million were sold in Germany and in Japan, ranking these No. 2 and No. 3, respectively.