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It's "Vac" to School Time!

The A-B-C's and 1-2-3's of vacuuming...

(September, 2010)



Ahh...The kiddies are finally back to school and hitting the books! **Personally, I'm glad to no longer be legally obligated to attend an educational institution. However, I still love to learn!** My favorite stuff to learn about is that which helps me accomplish something fun, or makes my life easier/better.

At our store we sell new vacuums and fix all brands of old ones. **Our job – one way or the other – is to make our customers' lives easier by making their cleaning equipment works right, or to help them find the right vacuum for their unique situation.**

We have to learn a lot about our customers'

situations and expectations in order. Customers share with us their vacuuming pet-peeves, cleaning challenges and other general questions. Thus, we spend a good amount of time teaching our customers about how vacuums work and how to work them – so that they achieve the maximum cleaning results with the least amount of time and money spent. We This offers us special insight to the problems that customers face on a daily basis:

I feel a little embarrassed about the solutions that were right under my nose the whole time – yet appreciate the lesson nonetheless. In Learning sure is great. And although we may be older “Okay, so vacuuming isn't rocket science....but there is *some* science to it nonetheless.

If you find vacuuming to be a giant pain in the you-know-what, *it shouldn't be!* If your vacuuming experience is difficult for any reason, that's your first clue that something's wrong! Following are what we like to consider the golden rules of vacuum ownership...Keeping these tips in mind should make your cleaning experience as fast, easy and effective as possible!

Here are the ABC's and 123's of vacuuming:

A – It's all about Air! Live Bugs - If you use a bagless vacuum, this isn't the best idea. You might want to wait until you're sure all critters are dead before you empty the dirt collection bin!

B – Breakage Happens. Remember that your vacuum is a mechanical device; a machine with moving parts. So don't get discouraged when its performance mysteriously declines, or if an accident happens. Much like your car, your vacuum is comprised of parts that wear out over time (or just break) and need replacing. Always provide your vacuum with the basic maintenance it requires (like bags, belts, filters and regular cleanings). Also consider getting the vacuum fixed when it doesn't work right, before just throwing it out (hey, at least here estimates are FREE!).

C – Choose Wisely. As I've discussed in previous articles, your vacuum is a *tool*. Choose your brand and model of vacuum wisely, as the wrong type will not perform as desired on the surface you are cleaning, or meet other expectations you may have. Seek professional advice.

1 – ONCE per month, give your vac some basic attention. Change its bag, if close to being full. Check or clean its primary filter. Also, give the exterior a quick wipe down with a damp cloth. You may not realize how dusty and smelly your vacuum can get very quickly if unattended to!

2 – Every TWO years, get your vacuum serviced. You know to change your car's oil every 3 months or 3,000 miles, and that your brakes only last so long. Your vacuum has moving parts too. Every couple of years get your vacuum a "tune-up" which includes cleaning and lubricating the brushroller and bearings, checking the electrical system, unclogging and washing. (Because you can't keep your house clean with a dirty, smelly, busted-up vacuum!)

3 – Every THREE months Check your belt and filters. Over time fine dust clogs the pores in the media that comprises your vacuum's filtration system. If your machine uses bags, most of the vac-choking material gets removed regularly with the bag. But if your vacuum is bagless, it is IMPERATIVE to keep its filters very clean, very regularly. Otherwise, the vacuum will suffocate causing a sharp decline in performance, and overall lifespan! Lastly, most regular upright vacuum cleaners use a stretchy, rubber drive belt than can last up to a year. However, if you have ever had an "accident" in which something got caught/stuck in the brushroller, the belt has been subjected to excessive friction that may have caused it to break or stretch too much. Without proper tension, the brush can't spin aggressively enough to pick up debris very well on your carpets. Get a new belt on there, STAT!

[CLICK HERE to find out the #1 substance you should never suck up...](#)