

## Maintaining your vacuum cleaner

A vacuum cleaner, when well taken care of should last you for a very long time.

Here are some steps to keeping it well maintained: If you use your vacuum cleaner everyday, you will need to do this often—once per month. If you don't use it as often or only vacuum a couple of rooms, you will need to do this maybe every 2-3 months.

1. Unplug your vacuum cleaner before performing any maintenance.
2. Check the canister regularly or the bag and empty it. Even though it may be only ½ full it may be too full to clean effectively. Remember that all the air must pass through all the collected dust and debris, so if it is full, it has to work harder.
3. If your vacuum misses debris on the carpet or leaves behind a line of dust, that is your key to empty the canister.
4. Wash off any filters and let them thoroughly dry before reusing on the vacuum. I know for myself, a dusty filter, makes all the difference in proper suction.
5. Clean the brush roll. This is located on the bottom of the vacuum and usually it will be full of hair, string, etc. You can remove the screws and take it completely apart to remove the twisted up pieces or you can take a seam ripper tool and cut across the stuck on hair and string.
6. If you remove the brush roll, check underneath near the suction holes to see if they are clogged with dust.
7. Check the belt for any wear and tear. If it is stretched or thinner than the original, it is a good idea to replace it. It is usually a good idea to keep a spare set around the home for when one breaks. They are only a few dollars and very easy to replace.
8. Check for any clogs in the hose. Normally you will notice this when you vacuum as it will stop all suction. Not something you need to maintain. Be careful when trying to dislodge a hose. You can accidentally rip a hole in the hose if not careful. Use the end of a broom handle to help dislodge the item. You can use a wire coat hanger if it isn't too far in. Be careful not to pack in the mess even more.