

Selecting the Right Vacuum for your Carpet

Because regular vacuuming can literally extend your carpet's life, the type of vacuum cleaner you use is important. A vacuum's performance will vary based on the carpet's fiber type and construction. A good vacuum typically has features that allow you to adjust the height, beater bar rotation and fan speed. Vacuums with large wheels, self-propelled vacuums and/or specialty tools can also help ensure easy and effective carpet maintenance.

Features to look for:

Adjustable height is the most important feature because this enables the machine to be used on a wide variety of carpet constructions. If your vacuum is set too high above the carpet surface, the vacuum can't attract the gritty soil below. If the setting is too low, the vacuum's beater bar or brushes can "fuzz" the carpet's surface, causing it to look worn and frayed.

- When vacuuming high pile, wool, wool-blend, and premium soft carpets, look for the following features that will allow you to easily maintain your carpet:
 - Adjustable Height Use the highest setting where appropriate
 - Adjustable Motor Speed Use a medium or low setting
 - Large Wheels Vacuum should glide easily across the carpet
- For all other carpet constructions not mentioned above, use a vacuum with a rotating brush or beater bar. Change the bags often and check the beater bars for burs and gouges to prevent damage to the surface of the carpet.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Should the vacuum beater bar/agitator be disabled?

In years past, some high pile carpets (especially shags) experienced problems by having the tips of the yarn entangle in the beater bar, resulting in damage to the carpet, vacuum, or both. Unless the vacuum is being used on a shag or long frieze product, turning off or disabling the agitator is not necessary, and may result in sub-optimal cleaning of the carpet.

Do I need an expensive vacuum to clean high pile premium soft carpets?

No. There are many vacuums on the market today ranging from \$50-\$300 that have been shown to effectively clean premium soft carpets.

Do I have to use a CRI (Carpet and Rug Institute) approved vacuum to honor my warranty?

The only vacuums that are guaranteed not to impact your warranty are ones that have the CRI seal of approval (www.carpet-rug.org). This caveat does not mean that other vacuums will automatically void your warranty, but there are vacuums that can damage carpet. Such impact could be considered damage rather than a product failure covered under warranty.