

Consumer Corner

Finding A Vacuum Cleaner You Can Become Attached To

(NAPSA)—There are many different vacuum cleaners out there, but which one is right for you? Here are some valuable tips from the cleaning experts at Dirt Devil Vacuums and CleanStream Filters that will help you find the perfect match.

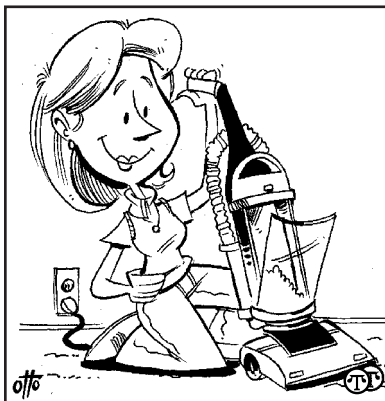
- Up with uprights! Upright vacuum cleaners have added features and onboard tools that make them versatile, easy to use, and effective, especially for cleaning large areas.

- Bag the bags. Select a bagless model so you'll have no messy bags to change or buy. Many models feature a clear dirt container so you'll know exactly when it needs hassle-free emptying.

- Check the filters. Buy a vacuum cleaner with a cleanable filter. Instead of using ordinary or microfiberglass filters, choose a newer material that is more durable, nonstick and easy to clean so you can use it over and over again. "Filters that meet these guidelines enhance the performance of a vacuum and protect it from premature wear," said Michael Debes, technical leader on the CleanStream filter team at W.L. Gore & Associates. "They also prevent particles from re-entering the atmosphere after they've been collected in the vacuum, creating a cleaner home environment."

- Feel the power. Do a little homework on amps and suction. Twelve amps is the maximum allowable amperage for upright vacuum cleaners. To verify exactly what the vacuum offers, check the unit's patent plate (generally located on the base of the unit).

- Inspect the gadgets. Consider the vacuum's design and fea-



CHECK THE FILTERS. Choose a vacuum cleaner with a cleanable filter that's durable so you can use it over and over again.

tures. Many design enhancements not only make it easy to clean, but are also helpful to those with physical challenges or limitations, such as arthritis. Crevice tools, telescopic extension wands, furniture brushes and other unique options, such as triangular-shaped attachments, are great for cleaning hard-to-reach places where dust and dirt accumulate.

"A vacuum purchase is a major decision for consumers, and with so many product options available today, it can become overwhelming," says Rick Farone, Dirt Devil's executive vice president of sales, marketing and engineering. "We recommend that consumers start by doing some research online to learn more about the top industry brands, their product offerings and pricing."

For additional cleaning tips and information, visit the Web sites at www.dirtdevil.com and www.cleanstreamfilters.com.