HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Clearing The Air In Your Home

(NAPSA)—Regular housework may do more than lead to a neat home—it can lead to a cleaner bill of health. Ninety-five percent of Americans surveyed described air in their homes as "clean and healthy." Indoor air pollution, however, is actually one of the top five environmental risks to public health, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The agency estimates that indoor levels of many pollutants may be two to five times, and occasionally 100 times, higher than outdoor levels. This, according to experts, is where housecleaning can help.

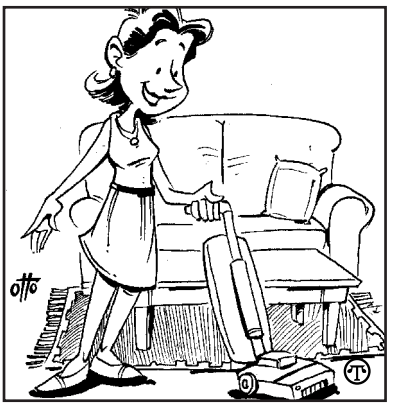
"The good news is that consumers can take charge of the situation every time they turn on their vacuums," says Michael Debes, technical leader on the CleanStream® filter team at W.L. Gore & Associates, makers of Gore-Tex® fabric. A vacuum cleaner can help remove dust, most allergens and other irritants from surfaces you vacuum. An efficient vacuum filter will help prevent particles from re-entering the atmosphere after they've been collected in the vacuum.

Try these cleaning tips:

• **Top To Bottom**—As a rule, clean from top to bottom. Dust the highest things in the room first and work your way down. For example, dust the ceiling fan before you dust the bookshelves beneath it. Finish off with a vacuum cleaner that retains dust.

• **Watch Out For Traffic**—Vacuum high traffic areas at least once a week. Pass the vacuum at least four times over the same area. It may look clean after one pass, but it's important to be sure all the microscopic particles have been collected.

• **Filtering Out The Dirt**—Vacuum filters are important for a number of reasons. An efficient filter traps fine particles without restricting airflow. Also, an efficient filter enhances the performance of a vacuum, and protects it from premature wear.



A new survey shows ninety-five percent of respondents consider vacuum filtration "important" in maintaining air quality in their homes.

• **Choose Filters Wisely**—Not all vacuum filters are created equal. The real test is how the filter affects the vacuum's performance. Conventional depth filters—whose design dates back to the invention of the vacuum cleaner—trap particles inside the filter, and can become clogged over time, restricting airflow. Look for the newest filter technology.

Surface filters stop fine particles at the filter's surface and let air pass through, preserving maximum airflow through the filter and optimum suction power. It's a good idea to be wary of ordinary paper or microfiberglass filters that can tear or become damaged, while in use. Look for a filter, such as CleanStream® filters, made from newer materials. Not only are the new materials more durable, they also feature a nonstick surface that is easy to tap clean so you can use it over and over again.

For more information visit www.CleanStreamFilters.com.