

# Central Vacuum Owner's Manual

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*Operation and maintenance for central vacuum cleaning systems:*  
**SilentMaster, Modern Day, FloMaster, and AirMaster**

This manual covers safety, operation, and maintenance of M.D. Manufacturing's Built In Vacuum Cleaning Systems. These systems are intended for household use only. For commercial applications, please contact your nearest M.D. Manufacturing dealer.

All information in this publication is based on the latest product information available at the time of approval for printing. M.D. Manufacturing Company reserves the right to make changes at any time without notice and without incurring any obligation. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission. This manual should be considered a permanent part of your vacuum system and should remain with the vacuum system after purchase and installation.

If any problems should arise, or if you have any questions about your Built-in Vacuum Cleaning System, consult your local authorized M. D. Manufacturing Company dealer or call us direct at (800) 997-2278 or visit our comprehensive website service guide.

## **Important Safety Instructions**

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Read all instructions before using your Built-in Vacuum Cleaning System.

WARNING-To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock or injury:

- Do not leave hose plugged in when not in use or during servicing
- Disconnect power units electrical plug before servicing.
- Do not use outdoors or on wet surfaces.
- Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children.
- Use only as described in this manual. Use only manufacturer's recommended attachments.
- Do not handle hose, outlets, or unit with wet hands.
- Do not put any objects into openings. Do not use with any openings blocked; keep free of dust, lint, hair, and anything that may reduce airflow.
- Keep hair, loose clothing, fingers, and all parts of the body away from the openings and moving parts.
- Do not pick up anything that is burning or smoking, such as cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes.
- Do not use without dust bag and/or filters in place.
- Use extra care when cleaning on stairs.

- Do not use to pick up flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline or use in areas where they may be present
- Do not store flammable or combustible product within three (3) feet of power unit.

## **SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS!**

### **Important Grounding Instructions**

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The vacuum unit must be grounded! If it should malfunction or break down, grounding provides a path of least resistance for electric current to reduce the risk of electrical shock. This unit is equipped with a cord having an equipment-grounding conductor and grounding plug. The plug must be plugged into an appropriate outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with all local codes and ordinances.

**WARNING-** improper connection of the equipment-grounding conductor can result in a risk of electric shock. Check with a qualified electrician or service person if you are in doubt as to whether the outlet is properly grounded.

Do not modify the plug provided with the appliance. If it will not fit the outlet, have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician.

### **Operation of Power Unit**

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Simply lift any vacuum inlet lid and insert the short metal hose end into the inlet. The unit will activate automatically. If your vacuum hose has an on/off switch, the power unit will not activate until the switch is turned on and will continue to run until the switch is turned off or the hose is disconnected from the inlet.

If the power unit is equipped with a utility valve, you may vacuum directly from the power unit. Simply insert the short metal hose end into the utility valve and turn the toggle switch on the power unit to the "on" position. Depending on the model of your power unit, the switch will be located either on the lower right side or the upper left side of the unit.

**CAUTION:** This switch is to be used only for vacuuming directly from the power unit!

### **Emptying the Power Unit**

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#### **BAG UNITS**

All power units that empty from the top have the same filtering design. To empty, follow these easy steps:

1. Remove the lid from the unit.
2. Remove the rubber gasket that is around the top of the filter bag by pulling gently on the edge of the rubber gasket. Remove from the canister.

3. To remove the filter bag locate the pull tab (ribbon loop) that is located somewhere on the top edge of the filter bag. Pull up on the pull tab. Both the paper bag and the cloth bag will then come out of the unit. The paper bag is fitted inside the cloth bag.

4. Remove the paper filter bag from the cloth bag by pulling the elastic edge of the paper filter bag upward from around the top metal ring of the cloth bag. Discard the paper filter bag.

5. Insert a fresh paper bag into the cloth bag and stretch the elastic top of the paper bag over the metal ring to which the cloth bag is attached.

6. Replace the clothbag-paperbag assembly inside the unit and press it into place. **NOTE: Check to make certain the metal ring is below the utility valve and vacuum inlet necks and then the pull tab on the filter bag is pointing up.**

7. Insert bag gasket (for instructions see underside of unit lid).

8. Replace the lid.



*Step 1. Removing the lid.*



*Step 3. Removing the filter bag.*

## **CYCLONIC UNITS**

All cyclonic units have the same filtering design. To empty, follow these easy steps:

1. Lift up the two clamps on the sides of the power unit.

2. Remove and empty the lower portion of the power unit.

3. Reach up inside and remove the dirty center foam filter.

4. Replace this filter with a clean foam filter. (The dirty filter may be washed and reused once it is complete dried.) **NOTE: When replacing the center foam filter make certain the entire outer edge of the foam is secured under the metal lip from which it was removed.**

5. Replace the lower portion of the power unit.

6. Turn the power unit on using the toggle switch located on the side of the unit.

7. Replace the lower portion of the power unit to the same position it was in prior to removal. (The vacuum will hold the lower portion in place while you fasten the clamps).
8. Fasten the two clamps on the sides of the power unit.
9. Turn off the power unit using the toggle switch.

## **Maintenance of the Power Unit**

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No maintenance is required for your power unit other than emptying it periodically. All motor bearings are sealed and require no maintenance. It is recommended that the motor brushes be inspected within three (3) years from the date of installation in residential applications and within one (1) year in commercial applications.

**CAUTION: Unauthorized service or repair of your power unit may void your warranty.**

## **Troubleshooting Your System**

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### **UNIT FAILS TO ACTIVATE AT THE WALL INLET.**

1. Check unit by using the toggle switch on the power unit. If the unit activates, the trouble lies in the wall inlet or the wiring leading to the unit. To check the inlet valve, remove the wall inlet and disconnect the two low voltage wires. Then, connect the two wires together. If the power unit activates, the inlet valve needs to be replaced. If the power unit still fails to activate, the trouble lies in the low voltage wiring from the power unit to the inlet valve.
2. If the power unit fails to activate from the toggle switch on the power unit, check to see that the power unit is correctly plugged in and then check the household circuit breaker.
3. If the power unit still fails to activate after all these procedures have been carried out, the trouble may exist in the vacuum motor or other electrical components.

**CAUTION: Unauthorized service or repair of your power unit may void your warranty.**

### **INSUFFICIENT VACUUM POWER.**

1. Check filter bag in the power unit. Make sure bag is not overfilled or clogged with fine dust.
2. If vacuum is good at any one inlet but not at others, this indicates the vacuum lines are clogged somewhere. Call your nearest dealer for assistance.
3. If the vacuum at all inlets seems insufficient, check the vacuum at the power unit. Insert the hose into the power unit's utility valve and activate the power unit with the toggle switch. If the vacuum seems greatly improved, this indicates the vacuum lines are clogged. Call your nearest dealer for assistance.
4. If vacuum still seems insufficient with hose connected directly to the power unit, remove the hose and check the vacuum with your hand placed over the utility valve. If vacuum seems greatly improved. This indicates the vacuum hose is clogged. Call your nearest dealer for assistance.

5. If vacuum still seems insufficient when checked with your hand over the utility valve, disconnect the power unit from the vacuum line. With the utility valve closed, check the vacuum directly at the vacuum inlet neck where the vacuum line connects. If vacuum seems greatly improved, this indicates that the vacuum line or an inlet valve(s) is broken somewhere. Inspect all inlet valves and as much vacuum pipe as possible. If unable to find breakage, call your nearest dealer for assistance.

8. If the vacuum still seems insufficient when checked directly at the neck where the vacuum line connects to the power unit, this indicates trouble within the vacuum motor. Your power unit needs to be checked. Call your nearest dealer for assistance.

**CAUTION: Unauthorized service or repair of your power unit may void your warranty. Please contact your nearest M.D. Manufacturing dealer for assistance.**

## **Preventive Maintenance**

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1. Although your system has been designed for maximum performance and service life, there are guidelines you can follow to help prolong its serviceability and life.
2. When removing hose from inlet valve, hold the inlet lid up for two (2) to four (4) seconds after removing the hose.
3. Never vacuum up liquids of any kind. If you do so accidentally, leave the hose plugged into the inlet and allow it to run for approximately five (5) minutes to dry out the hose and vacuum lines.
4. Empty the power unit periodically.
5. It is recommended that every three (3) years your central vacuum system should be checked and the motor brushes inspected. To have this done, contact your nearest dealer for assistance.
6. Never attempt any internal repairs on the power unit. ONLY qualified personnel should do this!

**CAUTION: Not all vacuum shops are qualified to work on Built-In Vacuum Units.**

## **Service and Parts**

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For service and/or parts, check with the dealer where you purchased your Built-In Vacuum Cleaning System. In the event you do not know who installed your system or you are no longer able to contact your dealer, contact the factory direct:

M.D. Manufacturing, Inc.  
300 Wood Street  
Bakersfield, California 93307  
(800) 997-2278

In the event you are out of state, we will endeavor to locate and recommend a reliable Built-in Vacuum dealer near you.