

Helpful Hints For Car Wash Vacuum Care & Maintenance

Today's vacuums and combination units such as shampoo/vacuums are relatively simple, straightforward machines but they do require some attention to details if they are to continue to perform well. The following hints and tips listed below will help keep your machines up and running well for years to come. Some involve basic maintenance items, and some are more geared toward the technical troubleshooting arena.

Installation/Maintenance

- ◆ **Adequate Power Supply** – This is very important for customers installing new machines or for existing customers who are upgrading their current equipment. It is one of the top three on our service call list. Make sure that the guidelines for wire size and service capacities (breaker size) are strictly followed. If a customer is unsure regarding these, hire a licensed electrician to install the necessary circuits. Failure to follow these guidelines can result in poor performance, or complete unit failure, blown fuses, etc.
- ◆ **Filter Bags** – Filter bags are one of those items taken for granted, yet something that can create problems & headaches for owners. The quickest, easiest way to avoid loss of suction, motor overloads, etc. is to routinely open the access door & “shake down” the bags into the dirt bin. This will dislodge a majority of the dirt & help keep filtering action up to par. A highly recommended method is to buy a second set of bags and change them out every 3 – 6 months. They can be laundered easily, and by doing this you maintain maximum performance and extend the life of the bags as well.
- ◆ **Gaskets and Seals** – Don't overlook these items when cleaning filter bags. Small gaps and cracks can grow larger; and eventually leak enough air to hamper vac performance.
- ◆ **Hose and Claw Nozzle** – Are you experiencing a loss of suction in the unit? If so the problem could be the result of a clogged hose, cracked hose or even a broken claw nozzle. This problem is often overlooked and is something that should be checked when performing regular maintenance on a unit.
- ◆ **Exterior Maintenance** – It is also a good idea when maintaining a unit to clean off the exterior of the canister and to check for worn out, torn or even faded decals & replace as needed. By keeping the appearance of the decals and the canister in good order you will attract and keep existing customers coming back on a regular basis.

Operational Troubleshooting

- ◆ **Vacuum Not Running**
 - Most commonly the first thing to check is the breaker supplying the unit. Be sure this is done first.
 - Check fuses in the motor supply lines, or the fuse on the timer plate. If these are blown, replace them.

- Check the motors to be sure they are free to turn and that the brushes are in good condition. If the brushes are well worn, this will, in turn, result in blown fuses.
 - If after checking these items the unit still doesn't run, check to be sure the timer connections are good, and that the wires from the coin mech switch are not loose.
 - If these are intact, the timer is most likely the problem and it should be replaced.
- ◆ **Vacuum Won't Shut Off – Runs All the Time** – This problem is most often caused by a control relay which has been burnt or contacts within the relay that are damaged. Replacing the control relay feeding power to the motors will usually cure this.
 - ◆ **Unit Accepts Coins – Won't Start** – Most likely caused by a bad connection to the coin mech switch. Be sure the wires connected to the switch are on the N.O. and COM terminals. If the wires are connected correctly, remove them and touch them together briefly several times. If the unit starts, the switch needs replaced.

These are just a few basic items which routinely cause our customers the most trouble. Checking these first will usually solve most problems.