

Why Test Vacuum Cleaners?



VACUUM CLEANER
INDOOR AIR QUALITY
TESTING PROGRAM

ID #:

**Meets Carpet
Industry Standards for**

- ✓ Soil Removal
- ✓ Dust Containment
- ✓ Appearance Retention

For Program Information
Carpet and Rug Institute
800-882-8846
www.carpet-rug.com



Why a Vacuum Cleaner Testing Program?

Today, air quality in the indoor environment is of utmost concern and importance. One of the ways to protect the indoor air quality (IAQ) is to keep all indoor surfaces as clean as possible. Removing dust and dirt that fall to the floor by vacuuming is a major element of cleanliness and is the most effective way to clean floors. Beyond the commonly known benefits — warmth, quiet, safety, beauty, softness — carpet provides air quality benefits by helping to control dust and dirt, keeping it out of the air and out of the breathing zone. Keeping carpet and floors clean without spreading dust back into the air can be a major benefit in keeping the entire room clean. It is very important to use a vacuum cleaner that cleans effectively, minimizes generating dust from the filter and around the machine while retaining the appearance of the carpet.

The impact of vacuum cleaners on indoor air and cleaning efficiency can vary significantly. For this reason, it is important for consumers to be able to identify models that perform well in these tasks. The carpet industry and participating vacuum cleaner manufacturers are committed to providing consumers with programs and products that address good indoor air quality.

The Vacuum Cleaner Testing Program

The Carpet and Rug Institute has initiated a voluntary Vacuum Cleaner Indoor Air Quality Testing Program that identifies vacuum cleaners that have been evaluated by an independent testing laboratory and have met the carpet industry

Standard for all three elements: soil removal, dust containment, and carpet appearance.

The CRI IAQ Label assists the purchaser by identifying vacuum cleaners that have demonstrated features that protect the carpet investment while minimizing adverse impacts on indoor air quality.

Goal of the Program

The goal of the program is to assist the consumer or professional with their buying decisions of vacuum cleaners that have been tested and have met the carpet industry consensus Standard.

How the Program Works

CRI randomly obtains the designated vacuum cleaner unit type and submits the unit to an independent testing laboratory for evaluation. To carry the CRI IAQ Label, each vacuum cleaner model must meet the criteria of the carpet industry Standard.

The tests follow a procedure that has been developed by carpet manufacturers and vacuum cleaner manufacturers and peer reviewed by scientists who are respected for their expertise in the study of maintenance and indoor air quality. Vacuum cleaners must meet all three elements of the Standard in order to obtain authorization to display the official CRI Indoor Air Quality Testing Program Label.

Participation in this testing and labeling program is voluntary.

The CRI IAQ Label or logo cannot be applied to a vacuum cleaner that has failed to meet any one of the three requirements of the Standard.

Each CRI IAQ Label contains a number identifying the vacuum cleaner manufacturer. The purchaser may call CRI's toll free number 800-882-8846 and use this I.D. # and the vacuum cleaner model name to verify the approval status of the vacuum cleaner. Vacuum cleaners that pass the CRI test criteria are listed on CRI's extensive website, www.carpet-rug.com.

The Standard

Soil Removal - The soil removal test protocol requires that the vacuum cleaner must remove in 4 passes a satisfactory quantity of soil from the standard test carpet.

Dust Containment - The dust containment test protocol evaluates the total amount of dust particles released into the surrounding air by the action of the brush rolls, through the filtration bag, and any air leaks from the vacuum cleaner system. This protocol requires that a vacuum cleaner will release into the surrounding environment no more than 100 micrograms of dust particles per cubic meter of air, well below levels stated in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Carpet Appearance Retention - The test protocol for appearance retention requires that the vacuum cleaner should affect the appearance of the carpet no more than a one-step change, based on one year of normal vacuum use.

The amount of soil removed, dust generated, and surface appearance change generated in laboratory practice may differ from that in home or commercial installations.

Vacuuming - Why It's Important

A good practice is to vacuum the areas often that receive the most traffic, such as hallways, stairs, and exterior entry ways in the home. Ideally, vacuum the entire carpeted area a minimum of twice a week.

Removing loose soil while it remains on the surface is important so that it is not walked into the carpet pile. Removing embedded soil is more difficult and time consuming than removing surface soil.

Following the vacuum cleaner manufacturers' guidelines and good vacuuming habits will maintain both the beauty of your carpet and a better indoor air quality environment.

Good Vacuum Cleaner Practices

Follow the vacuum cleaner manufacturer's instructions for proper use of their product. For the best cleaning results, no matter which type vacuum cleaner you purchase, inspect it periodically to be sure it is functioning properly.

- * Keep brushes clean and replace them when worn.
- * Keep vacuum hoses and attachments free of obstructions that restrict air flow.
- * Inspect the vacuum head for rough edges or bent metal that may damage your carpet.
- * Inspect belts frequently to make certain they are working properly.
- * Always keep a spare belt for replacement as needed.
- * Follow the vacuum cleaner manufacturer's instructions, and change the vacuum bag when it becomes more than half full. As the bag becomes full, soil removal efficiency is reduced.