

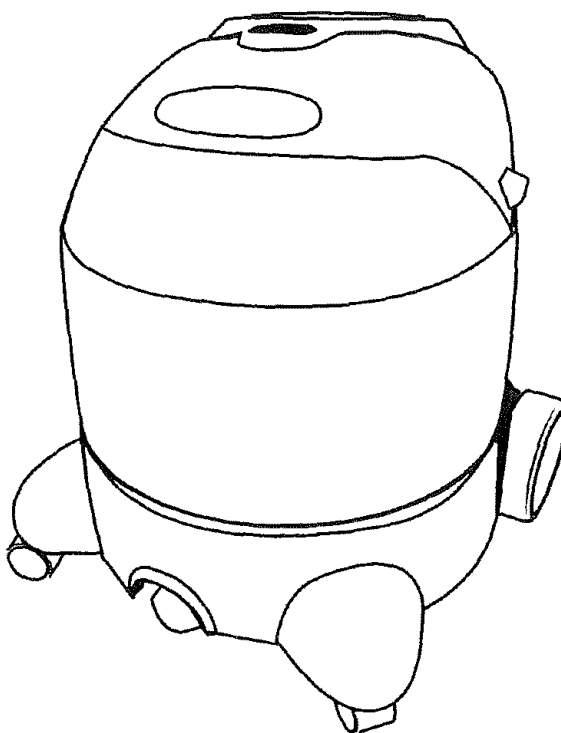
Save This Manual!  
For Future Reference

## Owner's Manual

MODEL NO.  
338.17923

Model Number \_\_\_\_\_  
The model number may be found  
on the nameplate. You should  
record the model number in a safe  
place for future use.

**⚠ CAUTION:** Before using this  
vacuum, read this manual and  
follow all its Safety Rules and  
Operating Instructions.



# CRAFTSMAN®

## 16 GALLON WET/DRY VACUUM WITH BUILT-IN PUMP

- Safety
- Assembly
- Operating
- Repair parts
- Español p. 6

## OWNER'S MANUAL CONTENTS

Item	Page
Warranty Information	2
Safety Instructions	2,3
Unpacking Carton Contents	3
Assembly	3
Operation	4,5
Storage	6
Troubleshooting	6
Repair Parts	See Insert

## WARRANTY

### FULL ONE YEAR WARRANTY ON CRAFTSMAN WET/DRY VACUUM

If this Craftsman Wet/Dry Vacuum fails due to a defect in materials or workmanship within one year from the date of purchase, Sears will repair or replace it, at Sears option, free of charge. For warranty service, return the Wet/Dry Vacuum to your nearest Sears Service Center or Sears Store in the United States.

If this Craftsman Wet/Dry Vacuum is used in a commercial enterprise of any sort, including rental use, this warranty coverage applies for only 90 days from the date of purchase.


This warranty applies only while this product is used in the United States.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Dept. 817WA, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS


When using an electrical appliance, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:  
**Read all instructions before using this product.**

-  **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire, electric shock or injury.
- Do not leave vacuum cleaner when plugged in. Unplug from outlet when not in use and before servicing. Connect to a properly grounded outlet only. See Grounding Instructions.
- Do not expose to rain – store indoors.
- 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 Craftsman attachments.
- Do not use with damaged cord or plug. If vacuum cleaner is not working as it should, has been dropped, damaged, left outdoors or dropped into water, return it to a Sears service center.
- Do not pull or carry by cord, use cord as a handle, close a door on cord or pull cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not run vacuum cleaner over cord. Keep cord away from heated surfaces.
- Do not unplug by pulling on cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
- Do not handle plug or vacuum cleaner with wet hands.

- Do not put any object into openings. Do not use with any openings blocked; keep free of dust, lint, hair and anything that may reduce air flow.
- Keep hair, loose clothing, fingers and all parts of body away from 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.
- Turn off all controls before unplugging.
- 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 use your vacuum cleaner as a sprayer of flammable liquids such as oil base paints, lacquers, household cleaners, etc.
- Do not vacuum toxic, carcinogenic, combustible or other hazardous materials such as asbestos, arsenic, barium, beryllium, lead, pesticides or other health endangering materials. Specially designed units are available for these purposes.
- Do not pick up soot, cement, plaster or drywall dust without cartridge filter and collection filter bag in place. These are very fine particles that may pass through the foam and affect the performance of the motor or be exhausted back into the air. Additional collection filter bags are available from Sears.
- Do not leave the cord lying on the floor once you have finished the cleaning job. It can become a tripping hazard.
- Use special care when emptying heavily loaded tanks.
- To avoid spontaneous combustion, empty tank after each use.
- The operation of a utility vacuum cleaner can result in foreign objects being blown into eyes, which can result in eye damage. Always wear safety goggles when operating vacuum.
- STAY ALERT.** Watch what you are doing and use common sense. Do not use vacuum cleaner when you are tired, distracted or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication causing diminished control.

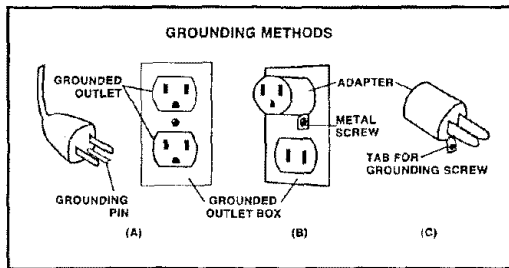
## GROUNDING INSTRUCTIONS

This vacuum cleaner is equipped with a cord having an equipment-grounding conductor and grounding plug. If vacuum cleaner should malfunction or breakdown, grounding provides a path of least resistance for electric current to reduce the risk of electric shock. The plug must be inserted 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 and grounding plug 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 vacuum cleaner – if it will not fit the outlet, have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician.

This vacuum cleaner is for use on a nominal 120-volt circuit, and has a grounded plug that looks like the plug illustrated in **sketch A**. A temporary adapter that looks like the adapter illustrated in **sketches B and C** may be used to connect this plug to a 2-pole receptacle as shown in **sketch B** if a properly grounded outlet is not available. The temporary adapter should be used only until a properly grounded outlet (**sketch A**) can be installed by a qualified electrician. The green colored rigid ear, lug or the like extending from the adapter must be connected to a permanent ground such as a properly grounded outlet box cover. Whenever the adapter is used, it must be held in place by a metal screw.

**NOTE:** In Canada, the use of a temporary adapter is not permitted by the Canadian Electrical code.



## EXTENSION CORDS

When using the vacuum cleaner at a distance where an extension cord becomes necessary, a 3-conductor grounding cord of adequate size must be used for safety, and to prevent loss of power and overheating. Use the table below to determine A.W.G. wire size required. To determine ampere rating of your vacuum, refer to nameplate located on rear of motor cover.

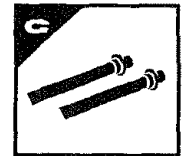
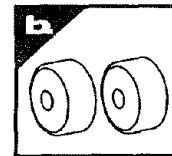
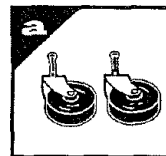
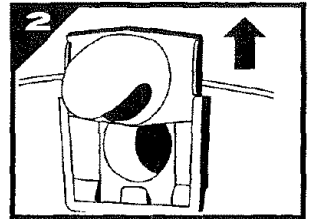
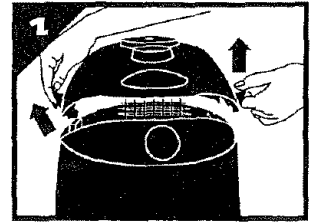
Before using vacuum cleaner, inspect power cord for loose or exposed wires and damaged insulation. Make any needed repairs or replacements before using your vacuum cleaner. Use only three-wire outdoor extension cords which have three-prong grounding-type plugs and three-pole receptacles which accept the extension cord's plug. When vacuuming liquids, be sure the extension cord connection does not come in contact with the liquid.

Volts	Total length of cord in feet			
	25	50	100	150
120V				
Ampere Rating More Than	AWG			
Not More Than				
0.....6	18	16	16	14
6.....10	18	16	14	12
10.....12	16	16	14	12
12.....16	14	12	<b>Not recommended</b>	

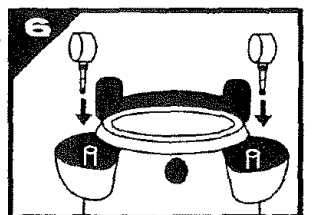
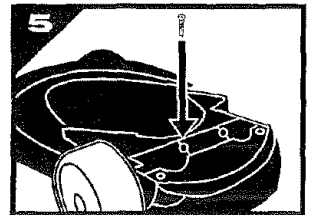
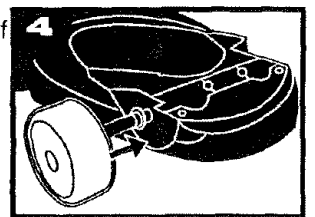
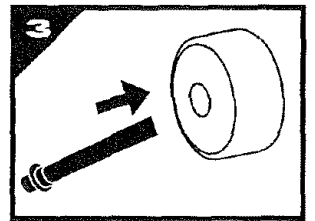
**NOTE:** Static shocks are common in dry areas or when the relative humidity of the air is low. This is only temporary and does not affect the use of the appliance. To reduce the frequency of static shocks in your home, the best remedy is to add moisture to the air with a console or installed humidifier.

## ASSEMBLY

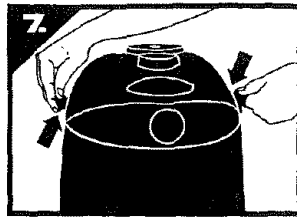
1. Pull tank cover latches in an outward motion and remove tank cover and any accessories which may have been shipped in the tank. (**Figure 1**)
2. Before replacing tank cover, refer to Dry Pick-Up or Wet Pick-Up Operation in this manual to ensure you have the proper filters installed and inlet deflector is positioned correctly for your cleaning operation.
3. Your vacuum comes with the filters already installed for dry pick-up. For filters recommended for wet pick-up refer to wet pick-up operation.
4. Be sure inlet deflector (**Figure 2**) is in proper position. Opening up for wet, down for dry vacuuming.
5. You will find two casters (a), two large wheels (b), two axles (c), and six screws with your wet/dry pump vacuum.



6. With cord disconnected from receptacle, remove tank cover and invert tank so that bottom is facing up.
7. Take one axle and insert it into the center of the smooth side of the wheel. (**Figure 3**)
8. Install the axle and wheel assembly into the underside of the rear wheel dolly. (**Figure 4**) Apply pressure to the axle and wheel assembly, until the axle is tight against the axle stop.
9. Secure the axle to the rear wheel dolly with screw provided. (**Figure 5**)
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 to attach the other side of the wheel assembly.
11. Insert casters into the underside of front caster supports. (**Figure 6**)
12. Replace tank cover and apply pressure with thumbs to each latch until it snaps tightly in place. Make sure both lid latches are clamped securely. (**Figure 7**)



13. Insert hose end with locking-nut into inlet of tank and tighten nut. Do not over-tighten.
14. Attach the extension wands to the accessory end of the hose.
15. Attach one of the cleaning accessories (depending on your cleaning requirements) onto the extension wands.



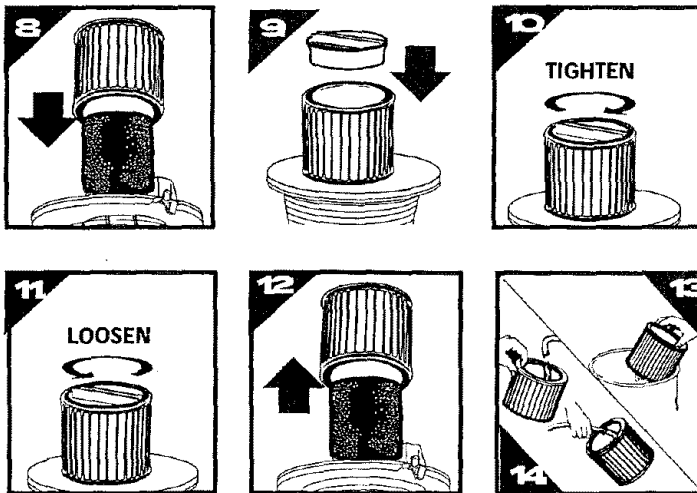
5. With the opening of the inlet deflector facing the bottom of the filter bag, slide collection bag collar over deflector, matching notches of bag collar to tabs on inlet deflector. Bag will only fit properly one way. (Figure 15b)
6. Slide deflector with collection bag attached into deflector guide (Figure 15c)
7. Reinsert hose into inlet and tighten locking-nut. (Figure 15d)

## OPERATION

### DRY PICK-UP OPERATION

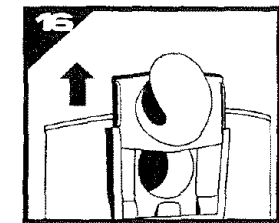
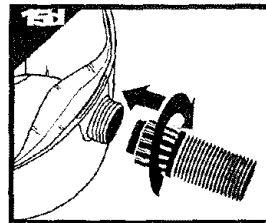
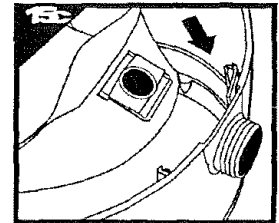
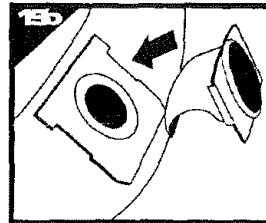
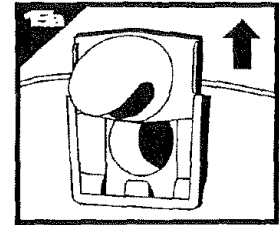
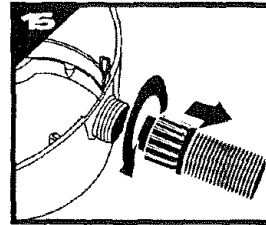
With the tank cover in an upside down position, slide the cartridge filter down over the lid cage, pushing until the filter seals against cover (Figure 8). Foam sleeve will remain in place. Place filter retainer into the top of the cartridge filter, and holding the tank cover with one hand, turn the handle on the filter retainer clockwise to tighten, locking the filter into place (Figures 9 & 10). To remove the filter for cleaning, again hold the tank cover and turn the filter retainer counterclockwise to loosen and remove, then slide the cartridge filter off the lid cage (Figures 11 & 12). To clean the cartridge filter, shake or brush off excess dirt or rinse (from the inside of the filter) with water. Dry completely and re-install (Figures 13 & 14).

Your vac filter is color coded with a black stripe. When replacing, just match the color.



### INSTALLING THE DISPOSABLE FILTER BAG

1. Use for dry pick-up only. Use only when cartridge filter is installed on wet/dry vacuum.
2. With cord disconnected from receptacle, pull latches in an outward motion and remove tank cover.
3. Unscrew hose locking-nut and remove hose from inlet. (Figure 15)
4. Remove inlet deflector from deflector guide. (Figure 15a)  
**NOTE:** Hose must be removed before inlet deflector can be taken out.

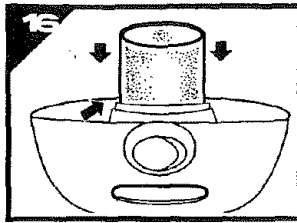


### WET PICK-UP OPERATION

For best results for wet pick-up remove cartridge filter and utilize the foam sleeve (already in place over the lid cage). For wet pick-up remove inlet deflector from deflector guide sliding in an upward motion. **NOTE:** Hose must be removed before inlet deflector can be taken out. Be sure the opening of the inlet deflector is facing the top of the tank (Figure 16). Misting may occur if inlet deflector is not inserted properly. Misting in exhaust air may occur if the foam sleeve becomes saturated during wet pick-up. If misting occurs, remove and dry the saturated foam sleeve or replace with another dry foam sleeve to eliminate the misting and possible dripping of liquid around the lid. Turn the unit off immediately upon completing a wet pick-up job, or when tank is full and ready to be emptied, raise the hose to drain any excess liquid into the tank. The interior of the tank should be periodically cleaned. The foam sleeve should be cleaned periodically as described in the following steps:

1. Always disconnect the plug from the wall receptacle before removing the tank cover. Remove foam sleeve by sliding it up and off the lid cage.
2. Shake excess dust off foam sleeve with a rapid up and down movement.
3. Hold sleeve under running water, rinsing from the inside. A water wash is not always required, depending on the condition of the sleeve.

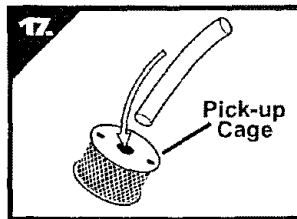
- Gently wring out excess water, and blot sleeve with a clean towel. The foam sleeve is now ready to be reinstalled on the lid cage. **NOTE:** Bottom of sleeve should be TUCKED in groove between lid cage and tank lid. (Figure 16)



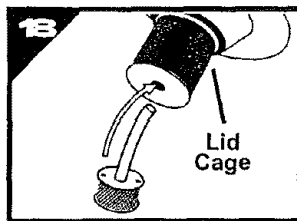
## PUMP-OUT FEATURE

**⚠ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of electrical shock, do not direct the discharge stream of water at the vacuum.

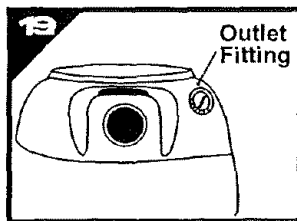
- Always disconnect the plug from the wall receptacle before removing the tank cover.
- Remove the tank cover and cartridge filter. The tank should also be cleaned of any dirt or debris.
- Ensure that the foam sleeve is in place for wet pick-up. (See wet pick-up operation, p.4)
- Be sure the opening inlet deflector is facing the top of the tank. (See wet pick-up operation, p.4)
- Insert one end of the tube provided into the pick-up cage. Push tube in until it comes to a stop. (Figure 17)



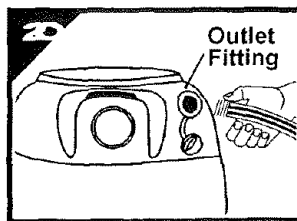
- Insert the other end of the tube into the hole on the bottom of the lid cage. Push tube in until it comes to a stop (Figure 18). **Note:** To avoid pump damage, never pump without the pick-up cage and screen in place.
- Replace the tank cover and secure lid latches.
- To prevent unwanted discharge of water, leave cap in place over the outlet fitting. (Figure 19)



- If pumping out during wet pick-up, remove the outlet fitting cover and connect a standard garden hose (not supplied) to the outlet fitting. (Figure 20)

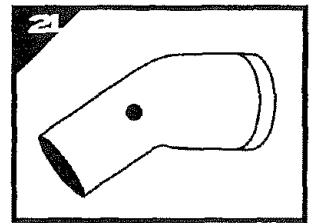


- Attach the 2-1/2" hose to the tank inlet.
- Your wet/dry vacuum is supplied with a wet pick-up elbow. (Figure 21)

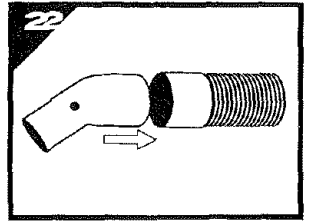


- Place the elbow onto the 2-1/2" hose end, and attach the desired 2-1/2" accessory to the elbow. (Figure 22) Elbow must be in place during wet pick-up to prevent overfilling of the vacuum. Do

not attempt wet pick-up without the elbow in place. Do not cover bleed hole in elbow. Failure to follow these precautions will result in overfilling of the vacuum and misting through the exhaust port.



- Plug vacuum into wall receptacle and turn on. **Note:** The on/off switch will automatically return to a neutral position.
- Start wet pick-up. The pump will start operating once there is at least 4" of water in the bottom of the tank.
- Because the wet pick-up speed is greater than the pumping out speed, the tank will likely fill up. When the tank fills up, the vacuum will shut off.
- The pump out unit will not prime if using a 1-1/4" diameter hose.
- If the vacuum automatically shuts off because it is full, you will need to empty the tank by pumping. Do not empty the water that is in the vacuum hose back into the tank. This will cause the unit to overfill, and misting will occur through the exhaust port.
- The ON switch must be manually held in the ON position for the vacuum to begin pumping again. It will take approximately 10 to 15 seconds for the water level in the tank to be reduced sufficiently enough for the pump to continue automatically. The vacuum will continue to pump water out until there is about 4" of water left in the tank.
- After wet pick-up and pumping have been completed, the remaining liquid should be emptied from the tank and the pump pick-up assembly should be removed and cleaned.
- To utilize your vacuum as a non-pump dry pick-up vacuum cleaner, refer to dry pick-up operation (See p. 4) for proper installation of filters.



## EMPTYING TANK COMPLETELY

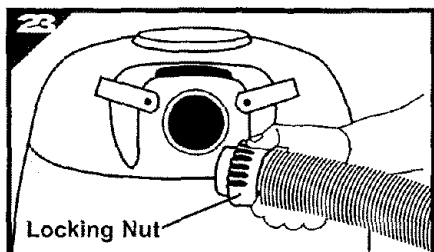
Your Craftsman Wet/Dry Vacuum can be emptied of liquid waste by removing the drain cap. To empty, turn unit off and remove plug from wall receptacle. Remove the drain cap and deposit the liquid waste contents into a suitable drain. After the tank is empty, return the drain cap to its original position. To continue use, plug the cord into the wall receptacle and turn unit on.

## AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF

This vacuum cleaner is equipped with an automatic shut off feature when picking up liquids. As the level of liquid rises an internal float electronically shuts the unit off when liquid reaches tank capacity. At this point, the liquid must be emptied to allow vacuuming to continue. Refer to sections above.

## BLOWER FEATURE

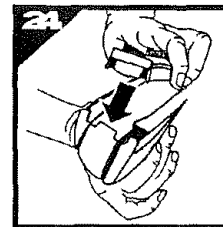
This vacuum cleaner can be used as a powerful blower. To use your unit as a blower unscrew blower port cover located on the backside of the motor housing (Figure 23). The blower port cover is equipped with a retaining strap to prevent loss of the port cover while blower is in use. Insert hose end with locking-nut into blower port of tank and tighten. Be cautious when using as a blower due to the powerful force of air.



**⚠ WARNING:** Always wear eye protection to prevent rocks or debris from being blown or ricocheting into the eyes or face which can result in serious injury. Do not direct airflow at or near people, animals or property. Wear a dust mask.

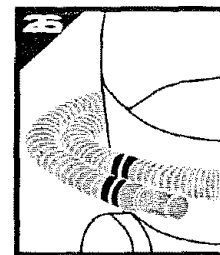
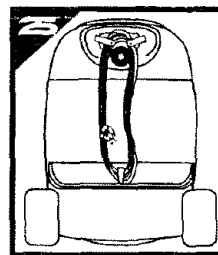
## ATTACHING SQUEEGEE TO 14" FLOOR NOZZLE

Align one side of squeegee with brush side of nozzle. Push them together, starting at one end and working toward the other. Repeat process to attach other side of squeegee to front side of nozzle. (Figure 24).



## STORAGE

Before storing your vacuum cleaner the tank should be emptied and cleaned. The power cord can be wrapped around the cord wraps provided on the rear of the tank (Figure 25). A hose holder has been provided for easy storage of the hose. Install hose holder end with fastener onto hose. Slide or snap fastener into notch, securing it in place. Remove extension wands and/or accessory from end of hose. Place hose end into open end of hose holder to secure hose in place for easy storage (Figure 26).



## TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE:

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE (S)	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Parts/accessories are missing	1. Packed in the tank	1. Check in tank
Dust discharging from the exhaust	1. Filter not installed/ not installed properly 2. Filter is damaged 3. Dust is too fine 4. Filter is not functional	1. Properly install the filter 2. Replace the filter 3. Use a more efficient filter 4. Clean or replace the filter
Loss of suction/ performance	1. Loose hose connection. 2. Lid/motor air leak 3. Drain air leak (not all models) 4. Filter clogged 5. Full tank 6. Hole in hose 7. Obstruction in hose or nozzle	1. Tighten hose connection 2. Check lid latches 3. Tighten drain cap 4. Clean or replace filter 5. Empty tank 6. Replace hose 7. Remove obstruction if present
Water misting out exhausted air	1. Saturated or missing foam sleeve	1. Check that foam sleeve is in place or replace with a clean dry filter
Water spraying out exhausted air	1. Inlet deflector shield is not installed properly	1. Check to make sure the inlet deflector is installed properly. Facing up for wet pick-up. Facing down for dry pick-up.
Static shock	1. Dry environment  2. Relative humidity of air is low	1. Add moisture to air (if practical, use a console or installed humidifier.) 2. This situation is temporary and does not effect the use of the vacuum cleaner.
Will not pump	1. Pick-up cage clogged. 2. Vacuum hose. 3. Not primed.	1. Clean mesh screen on pick-up. 2. 2-1/2 in. hose must be attached to unit. 3. Need at least 4in. of water in the tank.

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