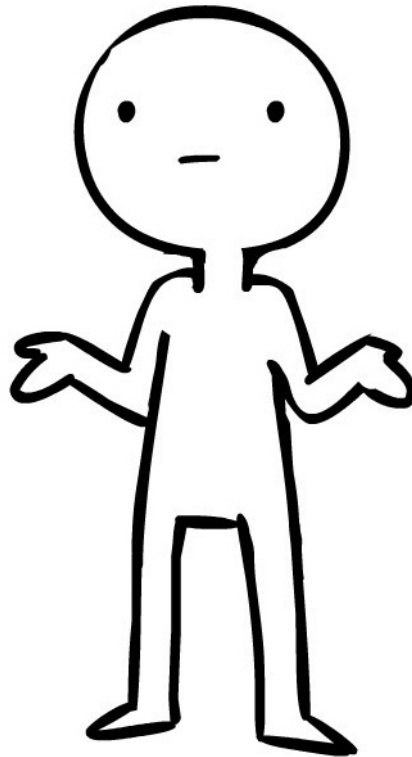


8 Mistakes To Avoid When Getting A Central Vacuum System



By Tom Beal



(1) Hiring someone with the wrong experience

If someone is good with their hands, installing a Central Vacuum seems easy enough.

So, it's pretty common for a handyman, or A/V installer, or even an alarm company to volunteer to build the vacuum.

This is not a good idea. It's like hiring an electrician to put in your plumbing.

If they get one angle wrong, when they put your pipes in... everything will seem fine for about 5 years, but then... the pipe will crack. And, cracked pipes are not cheap to fix (you usually have to get your walls ripped open).

You're better off hiring someone who specializes in Central Vacuums and has a bunch of experience building them. They won't make little mistakes like that.



(2) Hiring someone who isn't legally licensed

The benefit of working with an unlicensed Company is that it's cheap, but I would stay away from them because they are breaking the law and their employees can sue you if they get injured while doing the work.

It's quick and easy to figure out if they're officially licensed and I think it's a good idea because it shows you how honest they are.

Here's how you can tell if someone is licensed to put in Central Vacuums:

- 1) Go on their website and look for their "California Contractor License Number" (on our website it is at the bottom of any page and it is # 970561)
- 2) Open this official webpage and type that number into the search bar:
<https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx>
- 3) Check the area that says: "*License Status*", it should say: "*This license is current and active*"
- 4) Check the area that says: "*Classifications*", it should say: "*C-61 / D04 - CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS*"
- 5) Check the area that says: "*Workers' Compensation*", it should say: "*This license has workers compensation insurance*"



(3) buying an underpowered unit

Because of marketing, most Central Vacuum makers exaggerate how good their unit is, even if they are selling a great unit.

A little hack that we've found, is that if you buy a vacuum unit rated for a house 50% larger than yours, you will usually get about 50% more suction and the unit will last about 50% longer.

Usually it only costs another hundred dollars to get the upgrade and having better suction and a longer life, is really nice.



(4) buying a cheap unit

Cheap units (like the one in this picture) can usually be bought online by anybody.

They usually have a 3-5 year warranty (sometimes it will look like they have a long warrant, they will say something like: *"25 year warranty on all steel body parts"* but pay attention to what they say about motors, you'll usually find something like: *"2 year motor warranty"*).

Our favorite unit is not cheap.

It's called the "Silent Master" and it can't be bought online (you have to be a licensed Central Vacuum dealer to get access to it).

We like it because it's the quietest Central Vacuum we've ever heard, it comes with a 12-year warranty on all its parts (including the motors), and we've seen it last 30+ years in some homes.

An experienced Central Vacuum company will probably recommend something like that.

You might not recognize the brand and it won't be the cheapest option, but it's their favorite because of the quality.



(5) Buying a bagless unit

It seems like a good idea, until you get that thing full of dust and try to empty out the container... it creates a mini-dust storm and you usually end up breathing in that nasty dirt.

So, we always recommend that people get a bagged unit that can hold at least 6 gallons of dirt.

It's much more clean and quick and most people only change out the bag once every 4 months.

Plus, the bags are not expensive (\$30 for a 20-month supply) and you can get them off Amazon or just call us and we'll get them to you.

(By the way, when we sell someone a Central Vacuum, we always include some bags with the system)



(6) Not personalizing the system enough

Take a look at those pictures. The one on the left is an automatic dustpan, you just tap it with your foot and it starts sucking, tap it again and it stops.

The one on the right stores your hose in the wall.

Both are super popular, and a lot of people regret not getting one (because it makes the experience a lot nicer and it only increases the price a little).

There are plenty of other ways you can get your Central Vacuum customized and a good Central Vacuum company will be happy to show you all your options.



(7) Getting the cheapest carpet brush

There's a big difference between cleaning carpets that go from wall-to-wall and cleaning rugs that sit on top of a hard floor.

Rugs are usually pretty shallow, so they just need a little suction to get clean. But wall-to-wall carpets are much deeper, and they need a lot better suction to get clean.

In the central vacuum world, there are 2 types of carpet brushes:

#1) is Air Driven (less expensive).

#2) is Electricity Driven (more expensive).

Most people gravitate towards the less expensive option, because of the price.

But, if you have any wall-to-wall carpet in your home, you will be a lot happier with the electric carpet brush. Because it gets a lot more dirt out of your carpet. Enough that you can actually feel a difference when you walk on it (it makes it feel airy).

Either way, here are our 2 favorite models for both types:

#1) MD's "Stealth" (Electric Driven)

#2) Vacuflo's "Turbocat" (Air Driven)



(8) Having your system exhaust outside

This design has an exhaust that is ported to the outside. So, when you clean, it blows air out through the port.

It's not worse and it's not better to have one of these. It's just a design style.

But some people have neighbors nearby that don't like extra noise and this is about as loud as an electric leaf blower.

So, if that would bug you or your neighbors, make sure to tell your Central Vacuum company when they are preparing their designs.

So, there you have it.

Avoid those 8 mistakes and you should end up with a great Central Vacuum that does exactly what you want and lasts you forever!

If you have more questions, just give us a call at [\(818\) 881-3179](tel:8188813179). We have someone watching the phones every Monday to Saturday from 9am – 5pm (my wife and I personally answer most of the calls -- her name is Esther and you're going to love her).

Also, if it's easier you can just text us at: [\(818\) 881-3179](tel:8188813179) or directly send me an email at: tom@advancedhomes.com

Best,

-Tom Beal (Owner of AdvancedHomes.com)