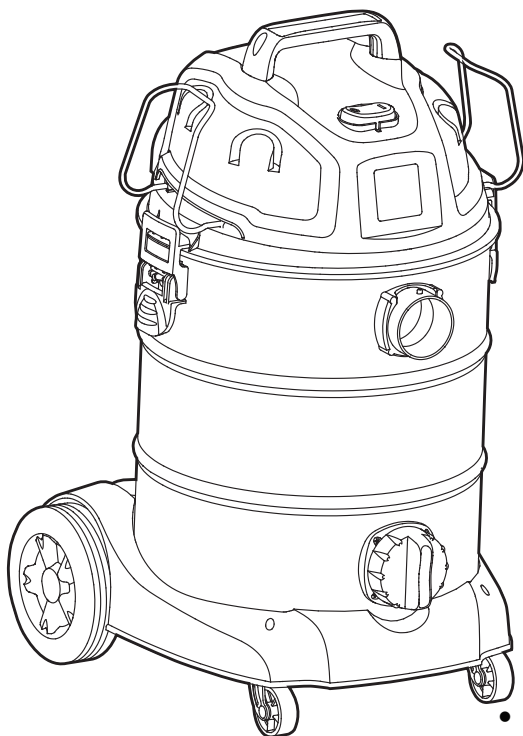


## Operator's Manual

# CRAFTSMAN

## 8 Gallon Wet/Dry Vacuum

Model No. 125.17608



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

- Safety
- Assembly
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Parts
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Sears Brands Management Corporation, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179 U.S.A.  
[www.craftsman.com](http://www.craftsman.com)

# Warranty

## CRAFTSMAN ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

FOR ONE YEAR from the date of purchase, this product is warranted against any defects in material or workmanship. With proof of purchase, a defective product will be replaced free of charge.

For warranty coverage details to obtain free replacement, visit the web site: [www.craftsman.com](http://www.craftsman.com)

This warranty does not cover filters, hose or attachments, which are expendable parts that can wear out from normal use within the warranty period.

This warranty is void if this product is ever used while providing commercial services or if rented to another person.

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

Sears Brands Management Corporation, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

### READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THIS VACUUM

Read and understand this owner's manual and all labels on the Wet/Dry Vacuum cleaner before operating. Safety is a combination of common sense, staying alert and knowing how your vacuum works. Use this Wet/Dry Vac only as described in this manual. To reduce the risk of personal injury or damage to your Wet/Dry Vac, use only Craftsman recommended accessories.

For household use only

### SAVE THIS MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

When using an electrical appliance, basic precautions should always be followed including the following:

### WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE, ELECTRIC SHOCK OR INJURY:

- Do not run vac unattended.
- Do not vacuum, or use this Wet/Dry Vac near flammable liquids, gases, or explosive vapors like gasoline or other fuels, lighter fluids, cleaners, oil-based paints, natural gas, hydrogen, or explosive dusts like coal dust, magnesium dust, grain dust, or gun power. Sparks inside

the motor can ignite flammable vapors or dust.

- Do not vacuum anything that is burning or smoking, such as cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes.
- Keep cord away from heated surfaces.
- Do not expose to rain. Store indoors.
- Do not unplug by pulling on cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
- Do not use with damaged cord, plug or other parts.
- If vac is not working as it should, has been dropped, damaged, left outdoors, or dropped into water, take it to a service dealer for inspection and repair before using it again.
- Do not pull or carry by cord, use cord as handle, close a door on cord, or pull cord around sharp edges or corners.
- Do not run Wet/Dry Vac over cord.
- Do not handle plug or the Wet/Dry Vac with wet hands.
- To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dusts, do not vacuum toxic materials.
- Do not store near hazardous materials.
- Do not use this Wet/Dry Vac with a torn filter or without the filter installed except when vacuuming liquids as described in the operation section of this manual.

- Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children.
- To reduce the risk of injury from accidental starting, unplug power cord before changing or cleaning filter.
- Do not leave Wet/Dry Vac unattended when plugged in. Unplug from outlet when not in use and before servicing.
- Turn off Wet/Dry Vac before unplugging.
- Do not put any object into ventilation openings. Do not vacuum with any ventilation openings blocked; keep free of dust, lint, hair or anything that may reduce air flow.
- Keep hair, loose clothing, fingers, and all parts of body away from openings and moving parts.
- To reduce the risk of falls, use extra care when cleaning on stairs.

**When using as blower:**

- Direct air discharge only at work area.
- Do not use Wet/Dry Vac as a sprayer.
- Do not direct air at bystanders.
- Keep children away when blowing.
- Wear safety goggles.

Observe the following warnings that appear on the motor housing of your Vac:



DOUBLE INSULATED  
GROUNDING NOT REQUIRED.  
WHEN SERVICING USE ONLY  
IDENTICAL REPLACEMENT PARTS.

**⚠ WARNING**

- For your own safety, read and understand owner's manual.
- Do not allow unit to be in operation if unattended.
- Do not pick up hot ashes, coals, toxic, flammable or other hazardous materials.
- Do not use around explosive liquids or vapors.

**⚠ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of electric shock - do not expose to rain - store indoors.

**⚠ WARNING:** When using blower: Wear safety goggles labeled “ANSI Z87.1” on the package. Turn unit off before setting on ground or releasing grasp of handle. Electric shock could occur if used on wet surfaces. Direct tool discharge only at work area. Do not direct discharge at bystanders. Keep children away.

# Extension Cords

When using an extension cord with your Wet/Dry Vac refer to the following table to determine the required A.W.G. (American Wire Gauge) wire size. Before using Wet/Dry Vac, make sure it is in good working condition, including power cord. Also, make sure extension cord is in good working condition prior to use. Make repairs or replacements before using the vacuum cleaner. Only use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use.

	Length of Extension Cord			
	25 Feet 7.5 Meters	50 Feet 15.25 Meters	100 Feet 30.5 Meters	150 Feet 45.7 Meters
Amps	A.W.G Wire Size			
0-6	18	16	16	14
7-10	18	16	14	12
11-12	16	16	14	12
13-16	14	12	Not recommended	

# Introduction

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This Wet/Dry Vac is intended for household use. It may be used for vacuuming of wet or dry media and may be used as a blower.

Read this operator's manual to familiarize yourself with the product features and to understand the specific usage of your new Wet/Dry Vac.

# Table of Contents

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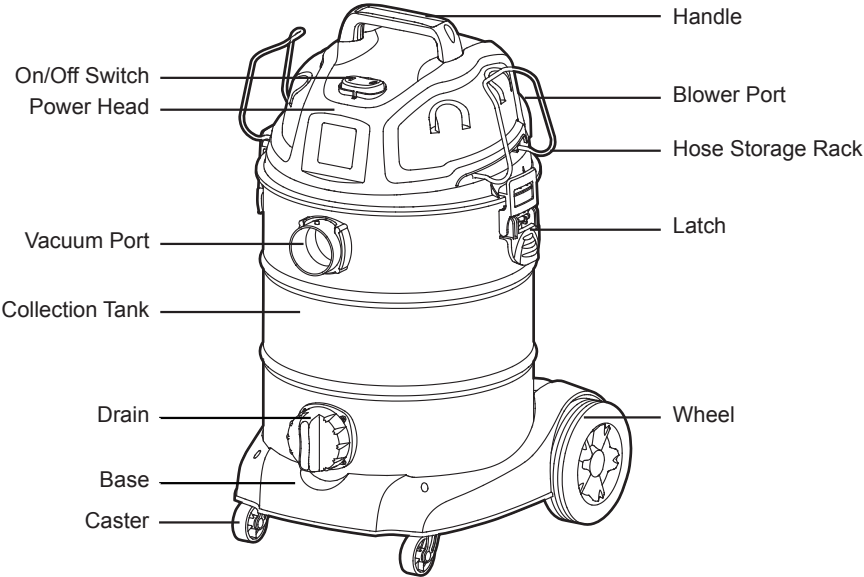
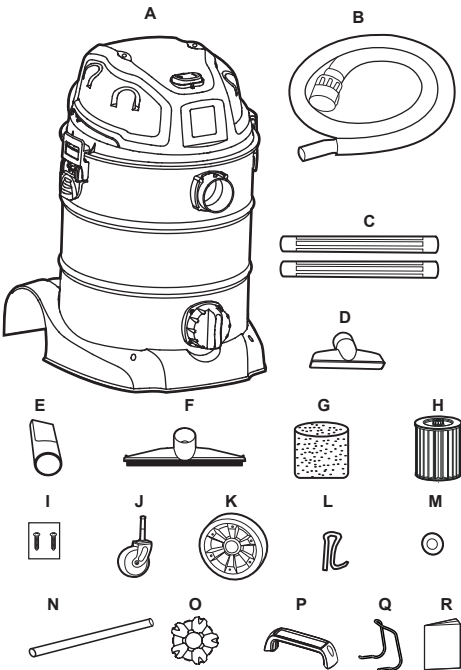
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# Assembly

Remove entire contents of carton. Check each item against the carton contents list. If any parts are missing or damaged, return the unit to the retailer of purchase, or call 1-800-469-4663 for part replacement.

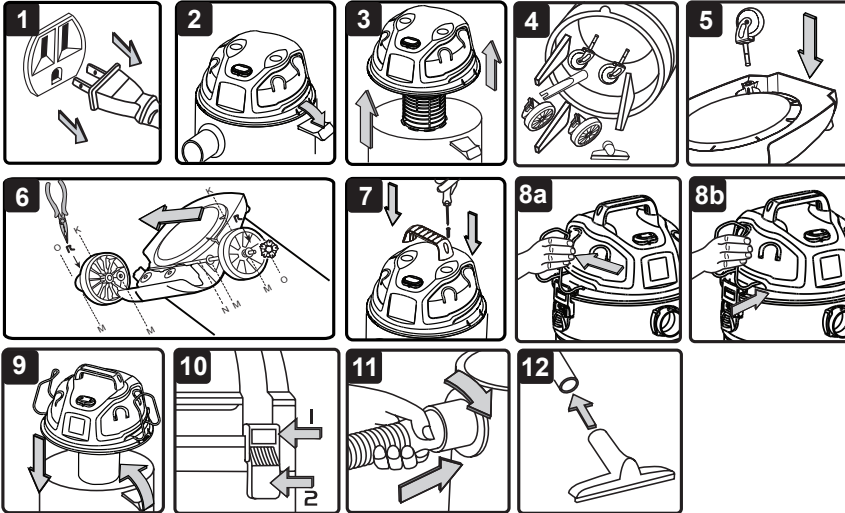
## Carton contents lists

Key	Description .....	Qty.
A	Vac Assembly .....	1
B	Hose .....	1
C	Extension Wands.....	2
D	Utility Nozzle .....	1
E	Crevice Tool .....	1
F	Floor Squeegee Nozzle .....	1
G	Foam Sleeve Filter .....	1
H	Cartridge Filter .....	1
I	Handle Screws .....	2
J	Casters .....	2
K	Rear Wheels .....	2
L	Cotter Pins .....	2
M	Washers .....	4
N	Wheel Shaft .....	1
O	Hub Caps .....	2
P	Handle .....	1
Q	Hose Storage Rack .....	2
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# Assembly (continued)

A Philips head screw driver and pliers are required.



**⚠ WARNING:** Do not plug in power cord to power outlet, make sure plug is disconnected before assembling the Wet/Dry Vac.


## UNPACKING YOUR WET/DRY VACUUM & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. Undo the latches. (Fig. 2)
3. Lift the power head off the collection tank. (Fig. 3)
4. Remove the contents from inside the collection tank; make sure you have all contents as listed on page 5. (Fig. 4)
5. With the power head removed, turn the collection tank upside down. Insert the two casters into each socket. Apply pressure until casters snap into place. (Fig. 5)
6. Insert the rear wheel shaft (N) into the rear support block. Insert washer (M) on the shaft, then insert rear wheel (K) and insert washer again. Insert the cotter pin (L) into the hole on the end of the shaft and bend the ends up with the pliers to lock the wheel. Snap the hub cap (O) on to the wheel. Repeat the same steps at the other end of the shaft. (Fig. 6)
7. Insert the handle into the slots located on top of the power head. Secure it

with the screws provided. Do not over tighten the screws. (Fig. 7)

8. For your convenience the hose storage rack comes pre-installed. If not installed, position the hose storage rack as illustrated. Insert one side of the rack into the channel making sure it is secured in place. Squeeze in the other end and insert it into the corresponding channel making sure it is secured. (Fig. 8a & Fig 8b) (If the storage rack has already assembled on the head skip this step.)
9. Place the power head back on the collection tank, and secure into place using the 2 side latches. (Fig. 9 & Fig.10)
10. Insert the locking end of the hose into the port on the collection tank and turn to lock in to place. (Fig. 11)
11. Choose the desired accessory and insert onto the end of the hose. (Fig.12)

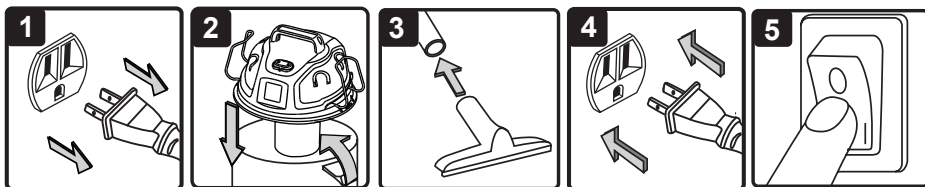
## Polarized Plug

To reduce the risk of electrical shock, this appliance has a polarized plug (one with the blade wider than the other). This plug will fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper outlet. Do not change the plug in any way. Double insulation  eliminates the need for the three wire grounded power cord and grounded power supply system.

# Operation

## Vacuuming Dry Materials

**⚠ WARNING:** Be sure to read, understand and apply all the information in the Important Safety Instructions section at the beginning of this operator's manual. Do not vacuum in areas with flammable gases, vapors, or explosive dusts in the air. Flammable gases or vapors include but are not limited to; lighter fluid, solvent type cleaners, oil-base paints, gasoline, alcohol or aerosol sprays. Explosive dusts include but are not limited to; coal, magnesium, grain or gun powder. To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dust, do not vacuum toxic materials.



1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. For dry vacuuming, the cartridge filter must be installed correctly. To verify, please refer to Installing Cartridge Filter on page 10.
3. Place the power head back on the collection tank, and secure it in place using the latches. (Fig. 2)
4. Insert the locking end of the hose into the vacuum port and lock in place. Choose the desired accessory and insert onto the end of the hose. (Fig. 3)
5. Plug the power cord into the outlet. (Fig. 4)
6. Turn the motor on by pressing the power switch to the 'I' (ON) position and begin vacuuming. (Fig. 5)
7. Once you have completed vacuuming, press the power switch to the 'O' (OFF) position and unplug the power cord from the outlet.

**CAUTION:** Do not vacuum drywall dust, fireplace soot or ash with standard Wet/Dry filter. This is very fine dust which will not be captured by the filter and may cause damage to motor. When vacuuming fine dust use a fine dust filter (sold separately).

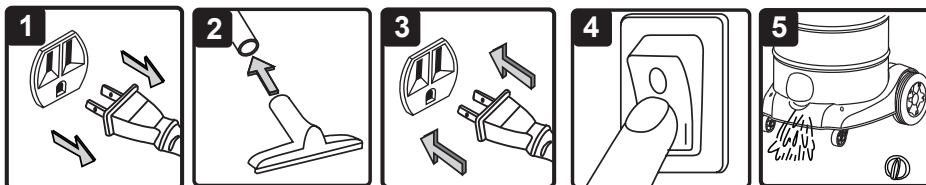
O = OFF I = ON

**DO NOT USE THE CARTRIDGE FILTER FOR LIQUID VACUUMING.**

# Operation (continued)

## Vacuuming Liquids

- ⚠ WARNING:** Be sure to read, understand and apply all the information in the Important Safety Instructions section at the beginning of this operator's manual. Do not vacuum in areas with flammable gases, vapors, or explosive dusts in the air. Flammable gases or vapors include but are not limited to; lighter fluid, solvent type cleaners, oil-base paints, gasoline, alcohol or aerosol sprays. Explosive dusts include but are not limited to; Coal, magnesium, grain or gun powder. To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dust, do not vacuum toxic materials.
- ⚠ WARNING:** Do not plug in power cord to power outlet, make sure plug is disconnected before assembling the Wet/Dry Vac.



1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. Remove cartridge filter as shown in Removing and Cleaning Cartridge Filter on page 10. Then install the foam sleeve filter as shown in Installing Foam Sleeve Filter on page 12 and secure power head back on the collection tank.

**DO NOT USE THE CARTRIDGE FILTER FILTER FOR LIQUID VACUUMING.**

3. Fit the desired nozzle to the vacuum hose. (Fig. 2)
4. Verify that the power switch is in the 'O' OFF position before plugging the power cord into the outlet. (Fig. 3)
5. Turn the motor on by pressing the switch to the 'I' ON position. (Fig. 4)
6. Once you have completed vacuuming, press the power switch to the 'O' (OFF) position and unplug the power cord from the outlet.
7. After use, empty the collection tank by unscrewing the drain cap and drain liquids into suitable receptacle or drain. (Fig. 5) Remember to refit the drain cap to the tank after draining.

**IMPORTANT!** When vacuuming large quantities of liquids, do not immerse the nozzle completely in the liquid; leave a gap at the tip of the nozzle opening to allow air inflow. The machine is fitted with a float valve that stops the suction action when the collection tank reaches its maximum capacity. You will notice an increase in motor speed. When this happens, turn off the machine, disconnect from power supply, and drain the liquid into a suitable receptacle or drain. To continue vacuuming, refit the collection tank with the drain cap. After wet vacuuming, turn the machine off and remove plug from power supply. Empty the collection tank, clean and dry the inside and outside before storage.

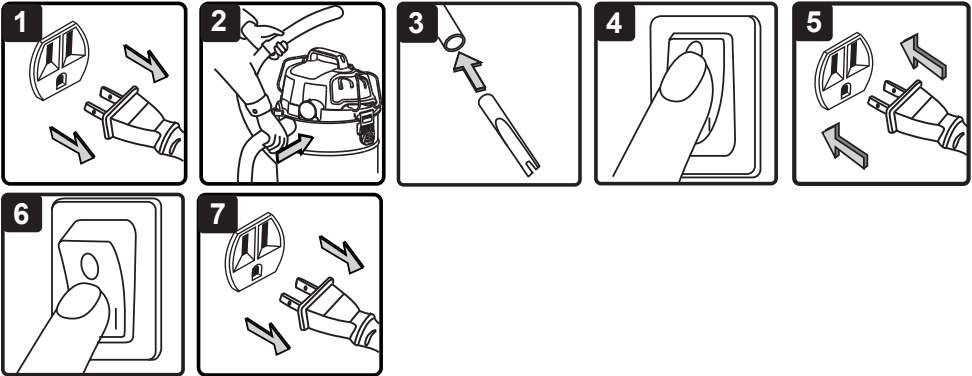
**REMEMBER!** The foam filter must be removed after wet vacuuming, and a cartridge filter must be installed before dry vacuuming again.



# Operation (continued)

## Blowing Feature

- ⚠ WARNING:** Always wear safety goggles complying with ANSI Z87.1 (or in Canada, CSAZ94.3) before using blower.
- ⚠ WARNING:** Keep bystanders clear from blowing debris.
- ⚠ WARNING:** Wear a dust mask if blowing creates dust that might be inhaled.

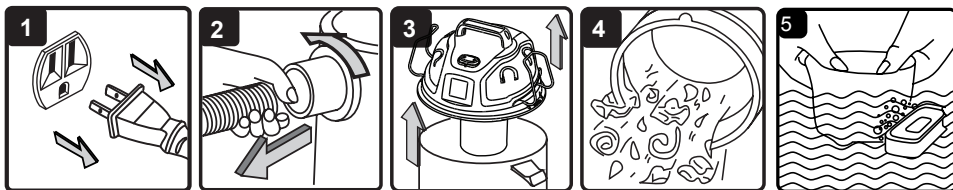


This Wet/Dry Vac has blowing capabilities. To use the blower feature follow the instructions listed.

1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig.1)
2. Make sure the collection tank is empty before using as a blower.
3. Remove hose from the vacuum port.
4. Insert the larger end of the hose into the blowing port on the back side of the power head. (Fig. 2)
5. Fit the desired attachment to the hose. (Fig. 3)
6. Verify that the power switch is in the 'O' OFF position before plugging the power cord into the outlet. (Fig. 4, Fig. 5)
7. Before turning ON the vac, firmly hold the loose end of the hose. Turn the motor on by pressing the switch to the 'I' ON position. (Fig. 6)
8. Once you have completed vacuuming, press the power switch to the 'O' (OFF) position and unplug the power cord from the outlet. (Fig. 7)

# Maintenance

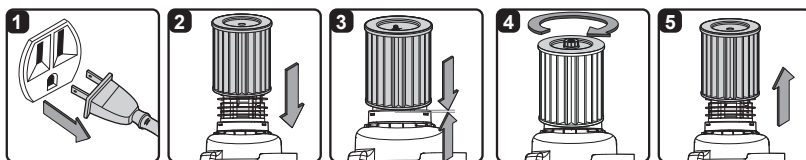
## Emptying the Collection Tank



1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. Disconnect the hose from the vacuum. (Fig. 2)
3. Undo the latches and remove the power head from the collection tank. (Fig. 3)
4. Clear all dirt or debris from the collection tank and hose. (Fig. 4)
5. Clean or replace the filters. (Fig. 5)
6. Check the hose, attachments, and power cord to verify that they have not been damaged.

**NOTICE!** The filter included is made of high quality material designed to stop small dust particles. The filter should be used for dry pick-up only. A dry filter is necessary to pick up dust. If the dust filter is wet, it will clog quickly and be very difficult to clean. Handle the filter carefully when removing it for cleaning and replacing it. Check the filters for tears or small holes, a small hole can let dust pass through and out of the cleaner. Do not use a filter with holes or tears, replace it immediately.

## Installing & Cleaning Cartridge Filter



### Installing Cartridge Filter

1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. Undo the latches and remove the power head from the collection tank.
3. Place power head on a clean surface in upside down position.
4. Slide the cartridge filter over the filter cage with the flat end of the filter towards the power head. (Fig. 2) Carefully push filter down until it is fully seated on the power head. (Fig. 3)
5. To secure filter; put on retainer nut and turn clockwise to tighten until snug. (Fig. 4) Or press down firmly on top of filter around retainer bolt to allow filter

to snap in place.

### Removing and Cleaning Cartridge Filter

1. Position power head in the upside down position. If the retainer nut was used to secure the filter, remove retainer nut by turning counter clockwise.
2. Carefully lift filter up from filter cage. (Fig. 5)

**NOTE:** For best cartridge filter cleaning results, cleaning should be conducted outdoors and not indoors.

3. To clean a dry cartridge filter after it has been removed, gently tap it against the inside wall of the container or brush the dirt off. Debris will begin to break up, loosen and fall.

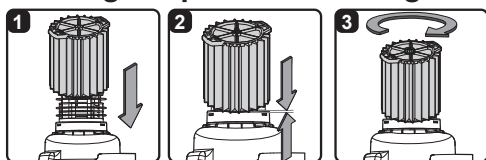
## Maintenance (continued)

**IMPORTANT!** Clean or change the cartridge filter regularly for best performance.

**ALWAYS USE CARTRIDGE FILTER FOR DRY VACUUMING.** If the machine is used without the dust filter, the motor will burn out and the warranty will be voided. Always keep spare filters on-hand.

**⚠ WARNING:** Always disconnect the plug from the power outlet before removing the power head from the collection tank.

### Installing a Replacement Cartridge Filter

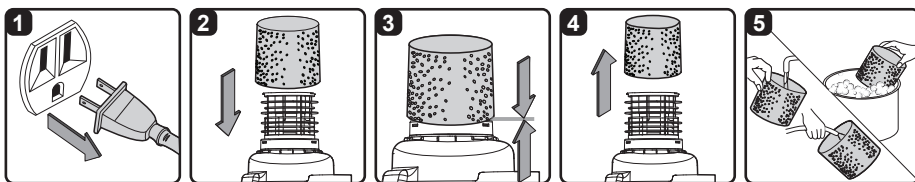


This vacuum cleaner is designed to use Craftsman cartridge filters.

1. Carefully slide the Craftsman cartridge filter over the filter cage and press down on the outside edge of the filter until the rubber gasket on the bottom of the filter fits securely around the base of the filter cage and against the lid. (Fig. 1)
2. Align the small center hole in the top of the filter over the post on the filter cage. Press firmly on top of the filter near the post to allow the filter to seat over the post. (Fig. 2)
3. To secure filter, put on retainer nut and turn clockwise to tighten until snug. (Fig. 3)

# Maintenance (continued)

## Installing & Cleaning Foam Sleeve Filter



### Installing Foam Sleeve Filter

1. Verify that the power cord is disconnected from the outlet. (Fig. 1)
2. Remove power head from collection tank. If cartridge filter is installed, remove as shown on page 10 "Removing and Cleaning Cartridge Filter".
3. Carefully slide foam sleeve filter down over the filter cage making sure the whole cage is covered. (Fig. 2 & 3)
4. Replace the power head onto the collection tank and secure in place.

### Cleaning Foam Sleeve Filter

1. With the removed power head in the upside down position, carefully remove foam sleeve filter. (Fig. 4)
2. Use a mild soap and water solution to wash foam sleeve filter and rinse with clean water. (Fig. 5)
3. Allow filter to air dry before installing and using again.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting the Wet/Dry Vac

To keep your Wet/Dry Vac looking its best, clean the outside with a dampened cloth, then dry with a clean towel.

To clean the inside of the collection tank:

1. Dump debris out.
2. Wash collection tank thoroughly with warm water and mild soap.
3. Wipe out with dry cloth.

Before prolonged storage or as needed (i.e., waste water pick up) the collection tank should be disinfected.

To disinfect the collection tank:

1. Pour 1 gallon of water and 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach into the collection tank.
2. Let solution stand for 20 minutes, carefully swishing every few minutes, making sure to wet all inside surfaces of the collection tank.
3. Empty drum after 20 minutes. Rinse with water until bleach smell is gone. Allow drum to dry completely before sealing the motor on the collection tank.

## Storage

Before storing your Vac, the collection tank should be emptied and cleaned. The cord should be wrapped around the unit and the hose should be stored as described in this manual. Accessories should be kept in the same area as the Vac so they can be readily available. The Vac should be stored indoors.

# Troubleshooting


**⚠WARNING:** TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK-UNPLUG BEFORE TROUBLESHOOTING.

Problem	Possible Causes	Corrective Action
Vacuum will not operate	1) No power supply.	1) Check power supply – cord, breakers, fuses.
	2) Faulty power cord.	2) Unplug and check the power cord. If damaged, have it repaired by a professional.
	3) Collection tank is full.	3) Empty collection tank.
	4) Switch in the wrong position	4) Press the ON 'I' button on the power head.
Dust comes out from motor cover.	1) The cartridge filter is missing or damaged.	1) Attach or replace the cartridge filter.
Reduced efficiency and motor/speed vibration.	1) There is a blockage in the nozzle, hose, or the tank inlet. The dust filter is clogged by fine dust.	1) Check nozzle, hose and tank inlets for blockage. Take off the filter and clean it. Or install new cartridge filter.

# Repair Parts

## 125.17608 8 Gallon Wet/Dry Vac

Always order by part number, not by key number. Always mention the model number when ordering parts. The model number is found on the serial plate located on the vacuum. To order parts, call 1-800-469-4663.

**⚠ WARNING:** Servicing of double-insulated wet/dry vacuum with double-insulated wet/dry vacuum, two systems of insulation are provided instead of grounding. No grounding means is provided on a double-insulated appliance, nor should a means for grounding be added. Servicing a double insulated wet/dry vacuum requires extreme care and knowledge of the system, and should be done only by qualified service personnel. Replacement parts for a double-insulated wet/dry vacuum must be identical to the parts they replace. Your double-insulated wet/dry vac is marked with the words 'double insulated' and the symbol  (square within a square) may also be marked on the appliance.

Key Number	Part Number	Description	Quantity
1	VQ51SR.10.04	Handle	1
2	VD30SR.00.01	Hose Storage Rack	2
3	VQ81SR.10.00	Power Head Assembly	1
4	TVQTZS.03.YZ	Float	1
5	VJ51PF.A0.01	Filter Cage	1
6	FV9543.11.01	Retainer Nut	1
7	TVQTDK.02.00	Latch Assembly	2
8	TVQTXK.A0.08	Vacuum Port Assembly	1
9	VF01SR.A0.01	Drain Outlet Assembly	1
10	VB07SR.20.02	Base	1
11	VB07SR.A0.02	Big Wheel Assembly	1
12	TVQTJL.18.00	Casters	2
13	FV5901.01.01	Extention Wands	2
14	FV5771.01.02	Crevice Tool	1
15	FV5772.01.01	Nozzle	1
16	FV5843.01.00	Hose	1
17	FV9502.04.00	Foam Filter	1
18	FV9543.11.00	Cartridge Filter	1
19	FV5708.00.00	Floor / Squeegee Nozzle	1

# Repair Parts (continued)

## 8 Gallon Wet/Dry Vac

