

“Extractors” Commonly Called Carpet Cleaners

Of the many types of extractors available in the marketplace, the most common is the box type. It is a box that holds clean and dirty water. A solution hose, suction hose and floor tool attach to apply and recover water and clean the carpet.

Since most of these units use 10' to 50' cords and work on one circuit, the amps that can be drawn will determine the equipment that is available in these units.

There is a cold box water extractor that will use two 2-stage suction motors (8 amps each) and a 100 psi (1/2 amp). This type of motor has two (2) manufacturers that are commonly used in the U.S., Lamb and GSA. These motors, with a 100 psi pump, will pull sixteen and one-half amps (16 ½ amps) and will use most of the current available on one (1) circuit in a hotel/motel room. Additional features can be added, but another supply cord must be added so that additional amperage can be pulled from a different circuit.

The next unit in the box type extractor is a hot water extractor. This unit will usually have one (1) three-stage motor (11 amps), 100 psi pump (1/2 amp) a 1000-watt heater with a 1000-watt pre-heater (13 amps), a total of twenty four and one-half amps (24 ½ amps). To use this unit on one circuit when the suction motor is turned on, the 1000-watt pre-heater cuts off dropping 6.5 amps to use only 18 amps. Once again, additional features can be added but another supply cord would have to be added to the unit so that additional amperage can be pulled from a different circuit.

These units come with 15 to 17 foot solution and suction hoses. They should not be extended beyond this length because the units do not have enough power to dry carpet properly. Most carpet extractors will remove from 85% to 93% of water sprayed into carpet.

Commercial chemical manufacturers do not state that chemicals work better with hot water. So, whether cold or hot water units are used, the cleaning should be comparable if the chemicals are used according to manufacturer's directions. Hot water can always be used in cold water units according to preference. Actually, a cold water unit has more air flow and water lift because of its two suction motor (water lift is a measurement of suction on a vacuum motor) and should give a higher percentage of water return from carpet.

When cleaning a carpet, removal of water means shorter drying time. Therefore, two or three passes over your cleaning area will leave less moisture in the carpet and put your room back in service sooner.

Carpet cleaning machines are like washing machines, which apply the chemical and water and remove the chemicals and water and remove the chemicals along with dirt. Quality chemicals, proper use, pre-treating heavy soil spots and retreating of the carpet with carpet guard are the secrets to successful carpet treatment.

This article should give you some guidelines when purchasing an extractor for your property.

- By-pass means separate cooling fan on top. Does not use air flow through motor for cooling.

- Tangential Discharge means air exhausted through horn on side – can connect motors horn (#1) to suction (#2) to create higher suction more air flow.
- Pump Pressure Demand means pump only works when actually spraying water, shuts off when pressure in line builds to a set psi then pump will shut down until water is released again.
- 5.7 – 7.2 means diameter across suction end of motor.
- Two-Stage means number of fans
- Three-Stage...in suction chamber