

A Fur-Ever Clean Home: An Engineer's Vacuum Selection Guide

By David Ortiz (Vice President of Engineering, Durable Appliances Corp.)

Living with pets is remarkable. It builds a foundation of responsibility, helps reduce stress, and provides unconditional love. Accompanied by this love, come rain or shine, is the reality of inevitable fur. The truth is, the fur, dander, and microscopic messes that pets leave behind need a quality cleanup, and that can only happen with help from the best vacuums.

As a VP of Engineering for industrial appliances and a proud owner of two Boston Terriers, I've learned what to look for in a vacuum that can tackle household pet pollution. It can be overwhelming to find a pet-friendly vacuum that fits into your and your pet's routine. With all the marketing jargon and pet-friendly storytelling, it's easy to miss the features that work versus the story that is sold. I will get down to the basics about the mechanical truths needed to achieve a clean home "fur-ever".

When selecting a vacuum for a pet-friendly home, the most important aspects to consider are quality filtration, maneuverability, and suction volume.

Breathe Easier with Advanced Filtration

According to the AAFA, 6 out of 10 households in the US have a pet, and 10 to 20% of the world's population has animal allergies. This means that anyone who steps inside your home has the possibility of having an allergic reaction to your pet's dander. Dust, debris, pet hair, and other irritants can exacerbate allergy flare-ups and compromise air quality.

An advanced filtration system in your vacuum can drastically improve the air quality in your home. A HEPA filter can trap small particles the size of 0.3 microns, comparable to the scale of dust mite allergens and invisible tiny irritants. One of my favorite vacuums, the ElectroZoom XL, has a patent-pending HEPA-certified filtration system that eliminates 99.7% of

irritants and ensures no after-dust. The newest and most groundbreaking filters make indoor air quality better and safer for everyone.

Fetching Dander, On-the-Go!

The decision between a corded or cordless vacuum has been a topic of debate since the conception of cordless models. The ElectroZoom XL incorporates both to address the needs of each option, which is a remarkable improvement for vacuum owners.

A major aspect of pet-friendly vacuums is their maneuverability. Having a combined model of corded and cordless is a must-have in a pet-friendly home. I recommend the vacuums that have both features because maneuverability and deep cleaning are essential in a pet home.

A lightweight vacuum that has a cordless mode allows for more frequent cleanups, better management of tackling pet hair in tricky places, and reduces physical strain on your body. Comparatively, the corded mode provides a strong, consistent suction for deep cleaning with unlimited runtime. It also allows you to keep vacuuming if the cordless mode battery runs out. If you're really interested in a cordless vacuum, make sure it has a battery life of 60 minutes or more to clean the whole house all at once.

A Quiet Vacuum is a Quiet Life

Pets can be scared of loud noises; they either bark, hiss, or end up hiding, fearful for their little lives. Vacuums and pets lack compatibility and make a doomsday out of cleaning day. To combat the loud noises and anxieties from your pets, invest in a vacuum that runs between 60 and 65 decibels. Most standard vacuums are over 80 decibels, which is too loud and uncomfortable for pets.

Having a quieter vacuum can ease your pets' nerves and make them less likely to interrupt the vacuuming process, allowing for more frequent vacuum sessions. This small change can build more trust and love between the owner and the animal.

Overall, these features in a vacuum can lead to a harmonious and clean pet household. I bet you are wondering what vacuum I use as VP of engineering. I use the ElectroZoom XL, which has all of these features and more.

If you have any questions or are interested in my assessment of certain vacuums, comment below.