

I'm not a bot



At Pro Tool Reviews, were constantly testing tools which means we also have a lot of cleanup to do around the shop. This provides us with a great opportunity to evaluate the best shop vac brands and models available. While there are dozens of options that can get the job done, some wet-dry vacuums prove to be better than others. In this roundup, I'll share the ones that stand out from the competition and help you find the right one for your needs. Best Shop Vac Overall Capacity: 6, 9, or 12 gallons Peak HP: 3.5 6.5 HP Airflow: 87 145 CFM Water Lift: 60 88 inches Hose Diameter: 1 7/8 or 2 1/2 inches Price: \$189 \$199 motorheads, \$79 \$99 canisters, \$79 rolling cart (various kits also available) Customizable to fit your needs. Excellent performance Outstanding build quality Effective hose and accessory storage Deep line of trade-focused accessories Cordless models are compatible with all Milwaukee M18 batteries Cordless models require battery runtime management Expensive. The best shop vac overall has to have the best balance of everything, and Milwaukee nailed it, but not with just one vac. They created an entire modular system that lets you customize what you need. Choose from single-battery, dual-battery, or corded powerheads. From there, you can go with a standard filter, wet foam filter, or HEPA filter. Milwaukee's product team also developed a trade-focused line of Air-Tip accessories that are cross-compatible with almost any hose size. While there's not just one vac that fits every need, Milwaukee has designed a system that is far greater than any one model thanks to the sum of its parts. Airflow Water Lift Peak HPM18 Fuel Model 091187 CFM60 inches3.5 HPM18 Fuel Dual Battery Model 0921109 CFM77 inches4.25 HPCord Model 0931145 CFM88 inches5.5 HP Best Cordless Shop Vac Capacity: 9 gallons Motor: 56V brushless Airflow: 110 CFM Water Lift: 100 inches Hose Diameter: 1 7/8 inches Price: \$329 bare, \$449 kit with a 5.0Ah battery Most powerful model we've tested Better build quality than low-priced models Effective hose and accessory storage Cordless freedom Compatible with all EGO 56V batteries You have to manage battery runtime Expensive. While many brands did good work converting wet-dry vacuums to battery power but traded off performance, EGO's team seemed to ask what can we do because it's cordless? The answer is the most powerful shop vac we've tested, corded or cordless. With EGO's 56V battery as a power source, it can deliver high airflow and water lift, making it a good fit for nearly every need. Capacity: 1.6 gallons Moto: 24V brushless Airflow: 41 CFM Water Lift: 42 inches Hose Diameter: 1 1/4 inches Price: \$99 here Strong performance compared to other compact models Cordless freedom Small storage footprint Compatible with all Flex 24V batteries Limited collection capacity You have to manage battery runtime. When you're looking for a handheld vac that's more capable than the one your mom used to have attached to the wall, I really like what Flex offers. Compared to other small vacs, the performance is higher and is balanced between airflow and water lift. I like that the canister holds more and the hose can reach into deeper, tighter spaces than one-piece units. Its small storage footprint is also appealing. This vac is great for quick cleanup in relatively small areas, but its performance isn't going to knock off larger models. That's something to keep in mind if your priorities include dust collection for benchtop tools or cleaning up heavier debris. Best Shop Vac for Car Detailing Capacity: 5 gallons Peak HP: 6.0 HP Airflow: 102 CFM Water Lift: 82 inches Hose Diameter: 1 7/8 inches Price: \$109.99 Outstanding performance for its size Easily to transport and carry Reasonably small storage footprint Moderately limited storage capacity Requires a nearby power source. To effectively detail vehicles, you need a small enough vacuum to get inside yet strong enough to help lift dirt out of the carpet. No model does that better than the Vacmaster Beast 5-gallon wet-dry vacuum. Not only is its overall performance higher than others in its size class, but its water lift is significantly stronger than its competitors as well. Capacity: 16 gallons Peak HP: 6.5 HP Airflow: 190 CFM Water Lift: Not listed Hose Diameter: 2 1/2 inches Price: \$139.99 High airflow for collecting dust High capacity Good value Not as easy to transport Can be heavy when full Large storage footprint. High airflow and capacity are the key to the best performance when it comes to dust collection. Craftsman nails it with a 16-gallon shop vac that hits an impressive 190 CFM. Whether connected directly to the tools you're using or cleaning up your work area when you're finished, it has higher airflow than any of the other vacs we've tested. The best shop vacs with high capacity offer excellent value and performance, but may come with some trade-offs. If you have the room and budget for it, a 20-gallon model can be an excellent option, even if it has slightly lower airflow and a larger storage footprint. If you're looking for a reliable and affordable shop vacuum, Ridgid is an excellent choice, known for its high CFM values and convenient availability at Home Depot. However, their water lift values tend to be lower than competitors. For those who prefer DeWalt's shop vacs, they offer better build quality and quieter operation with the Stealthsonic line. Their mid-range performance levels make them a solid choice, but note that there are "QT" and "QTA" versions available, including a contractor's kit. Greenworks is one of the few hybrid shop vacs that can operate on either battery or corded power, making it a good choice for lightweight debris. However, its water lift strength is relatively low. Hilti doesn't really do shop vacs, instead focusing on true jobsite dust collection. Their VC 5L Construction Vacuum is a solid addition to your jobsite, but it's not designed for heavy-duty cleaning of wet messes. Makita vacuums cater to professionals with high-end dust extractors, offering cordless freedom and performance without compromising on quality. However, their shop vacuum lineup is limited. Ryobi's 3-gallon PCL734 is a great little vacuum for quick cleanup jobs, while the Skil PWRCore 20 Slim Vacuum is a compact and powerful option for car or home use. If you're looking for an all-around wet-dry vacuum, the Shop-Vac SVX2 16-gallon model is a solid choice, offering high performance and capacity. However, if space is a concern, consider the smaller 14-gallon model. The best small wet-dry vacuum for portable use should have high performance, a good build quality, and versatility in its features. Price is not a priority when looking for this type of tool. When evaluating the performance of a wet-dry vacuum, water lift is crucial because it determines how much debris can be moved by the vacuum. CFM is also important, but it's secondary to water lift. The best model should have high airflow and a low weight to make it easy to carry around. For car detailing, a small-form-factor wet-dry vacuum that holds less than 6 gallons of water is ideal for transporting and using on mobile detailers. A higher water lift helps dig out dirt from carpets, while sawdust's lightness requires the highest airflow ratings to move debris quickly into the canister. Clearing dust and small chips fast prevents power tool dust ports from clogging. A high-capacity wet-dry vacuum is also essential for heavy-duty cleaning tasks such as sawing or cleanup. To get the best value, look for a combination of high performance, build quality, and features at an affordable price. Cheap models are not ideal, as they won't work hard and last long. Wet-dry vacuums, like Shop-Vacs, are designed to clean both wet and dry messes using airflow and various nozzles. They excel in tasks such as collecting dust from tools or cleaning out cars. However, they differ significantly from dust extractors and upright vacuums in terms of build quality and features. When deciding between a corded and cordless wet-dry vacuum, consider how you'll use it. Cordless models are more convenient but may have lower performance and higher costs. EGO and Milwaukee's cordless options offer high power and flexibility, while Greenworks' 60V hybrid vacuum provides mid-range airflow. In the search for a small portable wet-dry vacuum with great performance and versatility, consider the key specifications such as water lift, CFM, and build quality. Look for models that balance these factors to find the best fit for your needs. A vacuum's CFM rating doesn't necessarily translate to its ability to handle heavy debris like nuts and bolts if it lacks sufficient suction power measured in inches of water lift. Water lift, which indicates the vacuum's capability to move heavier objects, is essential for effective collection. The higher the water lift, the stronger the suction power, allowing for greater debris movement. When selecting a shop vac, consider both its capacity and water lift, as these factors determine its suitability for your specific needs. Additionally, look at the overall size of the canister, taking into account the filter's space requirements to avoid motor flooding. The M12 Fuel and Best Overall Shop Vac Given article text here The best shop vacs for heavy-duty use are those that offer high airflow, capacity, and build quality, with some models offering additional features like quieter operation or cordless power. Here are some top options to consider. Ridgid is a popular choice among contractors, known for its high CFM values and affordable prices. The 16-gallon model with 190 CFM airflow is an excellent option, while the 20-gallon model offers more capacity but slightly lower airflow. DeWalt's Stealthsonic line offers better build quality than other models, with a mid-range performance level that's hard to beat. The 9-gallon model has excellent airflow and water lift strength for its size class, making it a great choice for small to medium-sized projects. Greenworks is one of the few hybrid shop vacs that can operate on either battery or corded power, making it a versatile option for users with different needs. While its water lift strength is relatively low, the airflow is excellent for lightweight debris. Hilti's VC 5L Construction Vacuum is a solid addition to any jobsite, offering high performance and portability without sacrificing build quality. The available HEPA filter and manual filter cleaning mechanism make it an excellent choice for users who want a reliable and efficient dust collector. Makita vacuums are geared towards professionals with high-end dust extractors, but the 40V max XGT 10-gallon model is compelling for woodworkers looking for cordless freedom without compromising performance. Ryobi's 3-gallon PCL734 is a great little vacuum for quick cleanup jobs around the garage and house. Shop-Vac's SVX2 models are high-capacity and feature-rich, making them an excellent choice for users who need a reliable wet-dry vacuum with plenty of storage space. The 6.5 HP 16-gallon model is a solid all-around option, while the 14-gallon model offers more capacity without sacrificing performance. The Skil PWRCore 20 Slim Vacuum is an excellent choice for keeping on hand in your car for quick cleanups or tidying up tight spaces in furniture. Its 60 inches of water lift make it surprisingly powerful, given its compact size. A notable feature is that it can run off either the PWRCore 12 or PWRCore 20 batteries, giving you more flexibility. Specifications include a capacity of 3.2 gallons, peak HP not listed, airflow of 116 CFM, and water lift of 80 inches, with a hose diameter of 1 1/4 inches. The price point is \$289.99 bare tool. Looking for a reliable shop vacuum that meets your cleaning needs? The CFM rating is a key factor to consider, as it determines how much air flow you have to work with. This measure of airflow defines the amount of debris that can be moved by the vacuum each minute. However, CFM alone doesn't tell you about suction power or the ability to move heavier objects. Water lift, typically measured in inches, is more important than CFM when it comes to moving heavy debris like nuts and bolts. This "muscle" gets debris moving, and the higher the water lift, the greater the suction power. The capacity of your shop vac depends on the type of material or liquid you're cleaning up. When shopping for a new vacuum, consider the overall size of the canister and how much material it can hold. Factor in the wet capacity, as this is usually smaller than the dry capacity to prevent water from being pulled into the motor. Some quality models have float valves that shut off the motor when the water level gets too high. Pro Tip: Choose a model with higher capacity for better performance, but also consider portability and weight. Dragging the vacuum by the hose can damage it, so opt for a model with a handle instead. Accessory storage is another issue some vacuums have poor storage solutions, making it hard to keep nozzles and extension wands organized. Many shop vacuums come with cord wraps, but some are better than others. Consider how easily the vacuum manages the cord when plugging in and unplugging. Setting a budget can be helpful, but prioritize performance, features, and warranty over price. Look for companies that offer replacement bags and accessories for years to come. Pro Tool Reviews has been providing in-depth tool reviews and buying guides since 2008, focusing on professionals in the trades and putting products through rigorous testing. We only recommend tools we've used ourselves, so you can trust our recommendations.

Craftsman 12 gallon shop vac reviews. Craftsman 9 gallon shop vac reviews. Craftsman 2.5 gallon shop.vac reviews. Craftsman 16 gallon shop vac reviews. Craftsman 6.5 hp shop vac reviews. Best craftsman shop vac. Craftsman cordless shop vac reviews. Craftsman 4 gallon shop vac reviews. Shop vac vs craftsman. Craftsman 5 gallon shop vac reviews. Craftsman shop vac comparison. Best craftsman shop vacuum. Craftsman 5 gallon 4 hp shop vac reviews.

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