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# Standard Terminology Relating to Vacuum Cleaners[1]

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**agitator,** *n*—a device that is in contact with the surface to be cleaned and assists in dirt removal by mechanical action, rotary and otherwise.

**air power (AP, W),** *n*—(*1*) in a vacuum cleaner, the net time rate of work performed by an air stream while expending energy to produce an airflow by a vacuum cleaner under specified air resistance conditions. (*2*) a measure of the ability of the air stream to do work. Air power is expressed in terms of air watts.

**canister vacuum cleaner,** *n*—a portable floor-supported vacuum cleaner, having a nozzle separated from the cleaner housing by a hose and designed for normal-duty cleaning of household dirt. In use, only the nozzle is guided over the surface area to be cleaned. The cleaner may have detachable nozzles, attachments, and wands for both floor and above-the-floor cleaning. The nozzle may employ a driven agitator to assist in cleaning.

**carpet lay,** *n*—orientation of the pile of a carpet (or fabric) relative to the backing; the tendency of a carpet's pile to lean uniformly in a specific direction relative to the backing.

**car vacuum cleaner,** *n*—a relatively small, lightweight, portable cleaner that is designed for operation from a d-c power source, generally a 12-V automotive battery (see also **hand-held vacuum cleaner**).

**central vacuum cleaning system,** *n*—a cleaning system consisting of a stationary vacuum producer and dust collector that incorporates the use of a tubing system internal to a building structure and a flexible hose, or both, for conveying dust from the area being cleaned to the dust collector. The system is designed for all-purpose cleaning including various types of larger debris and may be designed for liquid pickup. The system is used by inserting one end of a hose into a wall vacuum inlet valve and attaching a cleaning nozzle to the other end. In use, the nozzle is guided over the surface area to be cleaned. The system may contain a driven agitator to assist in dirt removal and it normally has detachable nozzles, attachments, and wands for both floor and above-the-floor cleaning.

**cleaning ability, dry,** *n*—the potential of a vacuum cleaner to remove dirt from a surface (sometimes referred to in the industry as *cleanability, dry*).

**cleaning effectiveness, dry,** *n*—the ratio of the quantity of dirt removed to the quantity of dirt distributed on a test area.

**cleaning tool,** *n*—a customer-installed device for a vacuum cleaner that is applied to the surface to be cleaned and is attached to the hose or the nozzle, for specialty cleaning functions.

**combination vacuum cleaner,** *n*—a canister vacuum cleaner having a motorized nozzle separated from the cleaner housing but connected to it by means of a hose or hose and wand.

**commercial vacuum cleaner,** *n*—a vacuum cleaner suitable for the heavy-duty and sometimes continuous cleaning tasks encountered in establishments such as hotels, motels, office buildings, churches, clubs, etc.

**corrected air flow,** *n*—the volume of air movement per unit of time under standard atmospheric conditions. The flow is expressed in cubic feet per minute or litres per second.

**dirt receptacle first vacuum cleaner system,** *n*—a vacuum cleaner construction in which the dirt laden air is passed through a dirt receptacle (bag type filter, bagless filter, or other type of dirt separator). The separated air is then pulled through the fan (bypass) or fan and motor (flow through) and expelled from the cleaner. This type of construction is sometimes referred to as clean air or indirect system.

**equivalent orifice,** *n*—the diameter of the sharp-edged circular opening in the plate mounted in an ASTM Plenum Chamber (see Specification F431, for Air Performance Measurement Plenum Chamber for Vacuum Cleaners[2]), the opening having a resistance to air flow equivalent to the resistance

[1] This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F11 on Vacuum Cleaners and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F11.91 on Terminology.

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[2] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.