



# VACUUM BUYING GUIDE

If you are interested in buying a vacuum cleaner, ideally it should have three features: HEPA filtration, a dust bag, and a canister.

## HEPA FILTRATION

*A HEPA filter traps 99.97% of particles in the air at a size of 0.3 microns or larger. Vacuums without HEPA filtration end up putting much dust back into the air through their exhaust.*

When you're shopping, look for labels like the following ones to make sure that the vacuum has a **sealed HEPA filter** and is designed to **filter out allergens**:

- High Efficiency Allergen Filter
- Anti-allergen, complete-seal HEPA filter (found on Shark® products)
- Certified asthma & allergy friendly

### *Washable filters*

Older models of vacuums that contain HEPA filters advise that **the filter be changed every 6-12 months**. These filter replacements are often available for around \$20. More recent models have washable filters instead to extend the life of the filter, which ought to be cleaned every 3 months and then replaced after 24 months of usage.

## DUST BAG

*Bags trap dust, so it does not go back into the air when the vacuum is emptied. Bagged vacuums are harder to find in stores because manufacturers have been shifting to bagless models. You may have better luck finding one if you **go online** to sites like **Amazon** or the **online stores of retailers like Target, Walmart, Costco, etc.***



If you are unable to find and purchase a bagged vacuum, make sure you dispose of the dirt and dust properly when emptying the dust chamber of a bagless vacuum. If possible, have a non-asthmatic family member empty the container outdoors into a trash bag and make sure that there is no dust remaining in the container. Wearing an N95 breathing mask to filter the air while emptying the dust is highly recommended if an asthmatic family member is emptying the dust container.

## CAN

If available in-store or online, LSA Family Asthma Program also recommends buying a canister vacuum. The canister vacuums are typically easier to maneuver and are good at reaching "hard to clean" areas.

Some HEPA vacuums can be very expensive. Here are some suggestions of lower priced vacuum models that can be found near our neighborhood and online:



## Eureka AirSpeed Bagless Zuum Vacuum

**\$89.00** (price cut as of June 2014, reg. \$99.99)

*Available at Target*

In-store: 517 E 117th St, New York, NY 10035 | (212) 835-0860

Online: <http://tgt.biz/1oHeyRo>

👍 HEPA Filter   👍 Telescope reach wand and stretch hose   🗑️ Bagless



## Eureka Mighty Mite Pet Lover 3684F

**\$79.00** (filter replacement: \$18, 9-pack bag replacement: \$9)

*Available online at Amazon.com:* <http://amzn.to/VXPRGG>

👍 HEPA Filter   👍 Telescope reach wand and stretch hose   👍 Bagged



## Panasonic MC-CG902 Canister Vacuum Cleaner

**\$240.00** (filter replacement: \$13, 3-pack bag replacement: \$4.50)

*Available online at Amazon.com:* <http://amzn.to/1acJqph>

👍 HEPA Filter   👍 Telescope reach wand and stretch hose   👍 Bagged

To review, replaceable HEPA filters should be changed **every 6-12 months**. Washable HEPA filters ought to be cleaned **every 3 months** and then replaced **after 24 months** of usage.



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