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# Best Robot Vacuums of 2023

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By [Marlo Jappen](#)

May 31, 2022

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**Best Robot Vacuums**[Compare the Best Robot Vacuums](#)[Rating D](#)

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In our rating of the [Best Vacuums of 2023](#), only one robot vacuum makes the list: the iRobot Roomba s9+ Robot Vacuum. Besides iRobot, other well-known vacuum brands such as [Dyson](#), [Shark](#), and [Bissell](#) make robotic vacuums.

Robot vacuums, it's important to note, usually cost more than stick or upright models because they're autonomous and equipped with high-tech features. Wi-Fi connectivity allows users to use an app to initiate when the vacuum operates and what areas it targets.

Built-in sensors allow robot vacuums to navigate throughout the home, detecting which spots need extra attention. After the device completes its task, it automatically returns to its charging dock.



 (LIGHTFIELDSTUDIOS)

# Our Best Robot Vacuums Rating

#1 [iRobot Roomba s9+ Robot Vacuum](#)

## Compare the Best Robot Vacuums of 2023

#1

iRobot Roomba s9+ Robot Vacuum

Best Robot Vacuum

3.4 ★★★★★ U.S. News Rating

Price (MSRP)

\$1,100

Cordless



Type

Robot

Weight

8.2 lbs.

Buy at Walmart

## Best Robot Vacuums in Detail

### iRobot Roomba s9+ Robot Vacuum »



Buy at Walmart

#### Best Robot Vacuum

3.4 ★★★★★  
U.S. News Rating

PRICE (MSRP)  
\$1,100

TYPE  
Robot

WEIGHT  
8.2 lbs.

CORDLESS  
✓

MORE DETAILS ▼

SEE REVIEW »

**iRobot Roomba s9+ Robot Vacuum:** The iRobot Roomba s9+ vacuum is the only robot vacuum cleaner to make our Best Vacuums list. It also earns the No. 4 spot in our Best Cordless Vacuum rating.

The first product launched by iRobot, which was founded in 1990, was Genghis, a robot designed for space exploration. The company later developed the Roomba in 2002 and

the Braava Jet, a robot mop, in 2016.

Unlike the standard Roomba s9 model, the Roomba s9+ comes with a self-emptying dock called the Clean Base, which functions as both a dirt receptacle and a charging station. Compared to the brand's other models like the Roomba i7, the s9+ is iRobot's most powerful vacuum.

Read more in our [iRobot Roomba review](#).

## What Is a Robot Vacuum?

Robot vacuums tend to be a favorable option for those with busy lifestyles. Designed to save time and effort, most models support smart technology, which makes it possible for users to schedule cleanings and direct the device via an app or a voice command. Some robot vacuums are equipped with mapping features, allowing the device to learn a home's floor plan and avoid obstacles.

Robot vacuums are also ideal for pet owners. You can set them to run daily to pick up pet hair. Certain models, such as the iRobot Roomba s9+, use multi-surface rubber brushes, which won't get tangled with pet hair like other bristles.

For added convenience, some robot vacuums include an automatic dirt disposal system which allows the machine to self-empty into a different receptacle, limiting your exposure to dust (a plus for those with allergies). The Roomba s9+, for example, self-empties the contents of its bin into a disposable bag, which can hold about two months' worth of debris.

Robot vacuums function on hard floors, like wood and tile, as well as low-pile carpets and area rugs. Sensors allow them to transition between hard flooring and carpet. When the device detects carpet, it automatically increases its suction power for deeper cleaning.

Some robot vacuums perform equally well on hardwoods floors as on medium-pile or high-pile carpets, but traditional vacuums generally remain the better option for heavy-duty cleaning. While robot vacuums are great for light cleaning sessions and regular maintenance, they often lack the power and the capacity of manual vacuums. For instance, the Roomba has a dust cup capacity of .4 liters, the smallest of all the vacuums in our rating.

Another notable difference between traditional and robot vacuums is their price tag. While you can find a stick vacuum for \$50, robot vacuums typically range in price from \$200 to upwards of \$1,300.

## How Much Does a Robot Vacuum Cost?

The iRobot Roomba s9+ vacuum costs \$1,100. While that's the steepest price of all the vacuums we analyzed, and the only vacuum in our rankings with a price tag that exceeds \$1,000, a robotic vacuum typically retails for more than a regular vacuum cleaner due to its smart capabilities. For instance, the Roomba, which is Wi-Fi connected, has a smart-mapping feature that allows users to program the exact areas they want cleaned, as well as flag the spaces they want the device to avoid. It can pair with Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant for those interested in controlling the vacuum via voice commands.

The Roomba is available with the Braava jet m6 for an extra \$500. The vacuum-mop duo is compatible with each other, creating a seamless cleaning session without the need for additional commands.

For those on a tighter budget, the No. 1 vacuum in our Best Vacuums of 2023 rating, the Dyson V11 Animal Vacuum, retails for \$500 less than the Roomba and, while it lacks the automated features of a robotic vacuum, it's also cordless.

## How to Buy a Robot Vacuum

Robot vacuums are available online through the manufacturer's website or at major retail stores such as Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Kohl's, and Walmart. Like traditional vacuums, they come in different variations to suit different needs. Additionally, some companies (Shark, Bissell, Roborock, Ecovacs, etc.), produce vacuum-mop hybrid models to tackle both chores.

Here, we'll go into more details about things to consider when shopping for a robot vacuum.

**Battery-Life:** Battery life is worth keeping in mind, especially if you have a larger living space. The battery life of robot vacuums typically runs between 60 to 70 minutes, which covers many apartments and small houses. For those with larger homes, a robot vacuum cleaner with a longer battery life, particularly one that's at least 90 minutes, would be ideal.

Most robot vacuums are self-charging, meaning they automatically return to their charging dock when their battery runs low – even if it’s during the middle of a cleaning session – and then resume where they left off once they’re recharged. They also self-charge after completing their vacuuming task, so they’ll be fully charged in time for the next cleaning.

**Suction Power:** For those who clean up after pets, a robot vacuum cleaner with strong suction power is recommended. In this case, it’s also best to look for a vacuum with a rubber brush roller because bristle rollers sometimes get tangled with pet hair.

Some advanced robot models, such as the iRobot Roomba s9+, offer multiple cleaning modes to accommodate different floor types, from hard floors to carpets. When navigating on carpet, these devices automatically increase their suction to achieve a more thorough clean.

**Smart Technology:** Tech-savvy shoppers may want to consider a vacuum that’s Wi-Fi-enabled, allowing users to control their appliance through an app or a voice-activated device such as a Google Assistant or an Amazon Alexa. With this technology, they can schedule cleaning sessions from the comfort of their couch.


Smart mapping, another handy feature, allows users to customize their robot’s cleaning path, selecting specific areas they want cleaned and marking barriers where they want the vacuum to avoid. Following the map, the robot cleans row by row, learning your unique floor plan and deciphering the different rooms of your home. Drop-sensing technology helps the vacuum avoid steep obstacles like stairs.

For those who can do without the bells and whistles, some robot vacuums are available without Wi-Fi capabilities, and they sell for a lower price than smart models. Instead of directing the vacuum via an app or a smart device, these vacuums come with a physical remote control.

**Size:** If you have low-clearance furniture that’s difficult to move (think couches and radiators), it’d be wise to opt for a vacuum that’s shorter in height (2 to 3.5 inches). Robot vacuums that measure on the taller side (3.5 inches and above) tend to have more trouble maneuvering under hard-to-reach places.

# Popular Vacuums

Bissell Pet Hair Eraser Turbo Upright Vacuum »



Buy at Amazon

4.1

★★★★☆  
U.S. News Rating

PRICE (MSRP)  
\$247


TYPE  
Upright

WEIGHT  
13.8 lbs.

CORDLESS  
—

SEE REVIEW »

Dyson V11 Animal Vacuum »



Buy at Amazon

4.2

★★★★☆  
U.S. News Rating

PRICE (MSRP)  
\$600


TYPE  
Stick

WEIGHT  
6.7 lbs.

CORDLESS  
✓

SEE REVIEW »

Hoover WindTunnel 3 High Performance Pet Upright Vacuum »



Buy at Amazon

3.9

★★★★☆  
U.S. News Rating

PRICE (MSRP)  
\$240

TYPE  
Upright

WEIGHT  
18.1 lbs.

CORDLESS  
—

SEE REVIEW »

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At U.S. News & World Report, we rank the Best Hospitals, Best Colleges, and Best Cars to guide readers through some of life's most complicated decisions. Our 360 Reviews team draws on this same unbiased approach to rate the products that you use every day. To build our ratings, we researched more than 44 vacuums and analyzed 10 reviews. Our 360 Reviews team does not take samples, gifts, or loans of products or services we review. All sample products provided for review are donated after review. In addition, we maintain a separate business team that has no influence over our [methodology](#) or recommendations.

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