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Best Vacuums for Pet Hair of 2024

By [Amy Jamieson](#) | ☒ Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#) | Updated: Nov. 16, 2023 |

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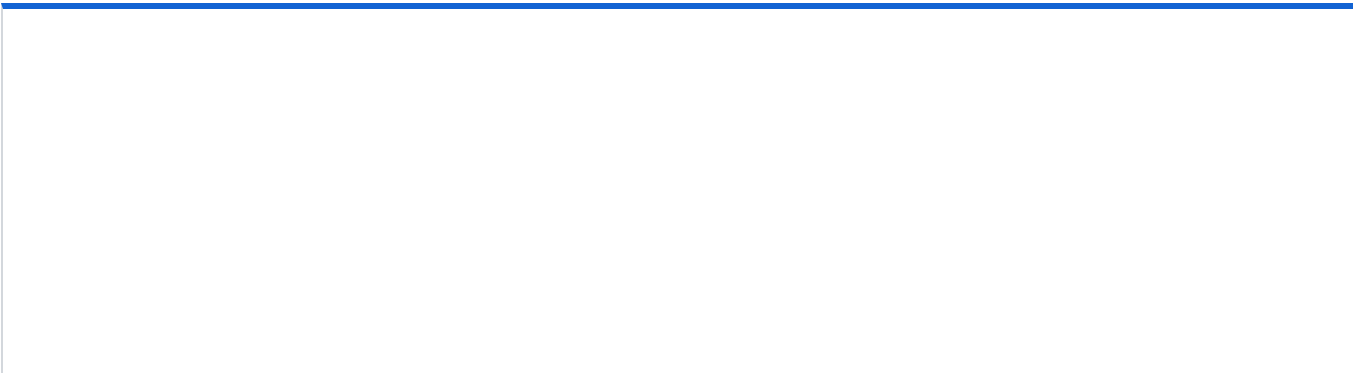
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It sounds counterintuitive, but when it comes to cleaning pet hair, you want a vacuum cleaner that sucks. Great suction isn't the only thing you need – a vacuum that's easy to use is a must.

“You'll likely want to pull out this vacuum cleaner constantly, making it important how lightweight it is, easy to maneuver, and just generally pull out of a closet when you need it,” says Mallory Micetich, a home expert for [Angi](#). “When considering other features [for tackling pet hair], suction will be really important along with tangle-resistant brushes. It's also really helpful to have different attachments to handle furniture, curtains, and other items.” Whether you've got a big or small space or own one pet or five, there's a vacuum to meet your immediate needs. Read on to learn more about our top picks.



Best Overall: [Shark NV352 Navigator Lift-Away »](#)

Best Budget: [Eureka PowerSpeed »](#)

Best for Apartments: [Dyson V11 »](#)

Best for Larger Homes: [Kenmore Elite 81714 »](#)

Best for Heavy Shedding: [Bissell 2252 CleanView Swivel »](#)

Best Overall: Shark NV352 Navigator Lift-Away



[Buy From Amazon](#)**Pros:**

- ✓ Versatile and lightweight
- ✓ Comes with additional tools
- ✓ Swivels

Cons:

- Hard for some to push on carpet
- Prone to falling over

The Shark Navigator NV352 Lift-Away is a versatile vacuum that has a lot to offer to pet owners who want to eliminate dander in their homes. The Navigator has swivel technology, which helps you maneuver the unit around rooms and furniture. Also, its pod can detach, allowing you to use it as a handheld model to tackle all the places fur flies like stairs, furniture, curtains, and more without the base of the upright vacuum weighing you down.

All of the dander collected goes into a dust cup that features Anti-Allergen Complete Seal Technology that helps trap dust and allergens inside the machine through a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. The brushroll shut-off button lets you quickly switch from carpet to hardwoods. Included accessories and crevice tools – that can conveniently attach to the machine when not in use – make it possible to clean hard-to-reach places like between couch cushions and tight corners.

Some reviewers say that this vacuum is top-heavy and thus prone to falling over, and others found it hard to push on carpets. However, many customers tout this unit's lightweight feel and great suction.

Specs:

- **Price:** \$179.99

- **Vacuum Type:** Upright
- **Dimensions:** 15 inches L x 11.4 inches W x 45.5 inches H
- **Weight:** 12.5 pounds
- **Dustbin Capacity:** 1.04 liters
- **Bagged or Bagless:** Bagless
- **Corded or Cordless:** Corded
- **Attachments:** Yes

Best Budget: Eureka PowerSpeed



[Buy From Amazon](#)**Pros:**

- ✓ Relatively budget-friendly
- ✓ Five cleaning settings
- ✓ Powerful suction

Cons:

- Not the best on hardwoods
- Loud for some

Selling for just \$89.99 on Amazon, the Eureka PowerSpeed is a pet-centric cleaning device that fits most budgets. It is lightweight (just 10 pounds), features a floor nozzle with a 12.6-inch-wide cleaning path, and includes multiple tools on board that work to suck up the pet hair in your space and on your furniture. Use the included “pet turbo” tool to help you pick up pet hair from tricky surfaces like pillows or ottomans.

This vacuum boasts five height settings that you can switch between based on the surface you’re cleaning, whether it’s high-pile carpet or linoleum floors. The 2.6-liter dust cup holds a generous amount of dirt, and you can empty its contents into the trash when you press down on a lever. (Eureka suggests doing this after each use.) Likewise, the brand advises users to clean hair off the roller brush and belt every two weeks to prevent malfunctions.

Keep in mind that some reviewers noted that the PowerSpeed didn’t perform as well on hardwoods and that it wasn’t the quietest machine out there. That said, many customers admire this machine’s powerful suction and how its cord retracts when you press a button, which is a nice change from cords that have to be pulled out all the way to retract.

Specs:

- **Price:** \$89.99 from Amazon; \$119.99 from Eureka
- **Vacuum Type:** Upright
- **Dimensions:** 13.4 inches L x 14 inches W x 44.5 inches H
- **Weight:** 10 pounds
- **Dustbin Capacity:** 2.6 liters
- **Bagged or Bagless:** Bagless
- **Corded or Cordless:** Corded
- **Attachments:** Yes

Best for Apartments: Dyson V11



 DYSON

Buy From Dyson

Pros:

- ✓ Small in size
- ✓ Runs for up to 60 minutes
- ✓ Boost mode offers extra suction

Cons:

- Pricey

— Boost mode uses more battery life

If you have limited space, you'll likely be reaching for your vacuum even more frequently, as hair may accumulate faster, according to Micetich, a home expert for Angi. "The size of the vacuum will also be really important," she says. "For a small home, a powerful cordless vacuum could be a great option, allowing you to pull it out easily," Micetich adds. Many cordless vacuums on the market come with handy attachments and, with small spaces, you won't have to worry about battery life as much.

The Dyson V11, which is intended for carpets, floors, and even your car, is a stick vacuum that converts to a handheld model so you can get those hard-to-reach spots. It has what the brand calls a High Torque cleaner head that features nylon bristles and soft carbon fiber filaments, which work together to suck away deep dirt and dust into the machine's five-stage, sealed filtration system. It also has a Boost mode to give you max power for tackling heavy-duty messes, though this uses more battery life.

The machine's Dynamic Load Sensor (DLS) automatically switches the motor speed as you glide from carpet to floor – this is helpful when you're moving quickly from one small space to another. Reviewers tout the V11's powerful suction and battery life.

Specs:

- **Price:** \$569.99
- **Vacuum Type:** Stick
- **Dimensions:** 49.65 inches L x 9.84 inches W x 10.28 inches H
- **Weight:** 6.61 pounds
- **Dustbin Capacity:** 0.76 liters
- **Bagged or Bagless:** Bagless
- **Cordless or Corded:** Cordless
- **Attachments:** Yes

Best for Larger Homes: Kenmore Elite 81714



 KENMORE

Buy From Amazon

Pros:

- ✓ Four attachments
- ✓ HEPA filtration

✓ Strong suction

Cons:

- Heavy
- Somewhat expensive

If you've got a big space to clean, you may want to opt for a larger vacuum. Despite its 22-pound weight, reviewers like this vacuum's quiet operation. The Elite comes with four different attachments (that can be stored on the machine) to help you zero in on fur on various flooring surfaces. Try it on carpets, hardwoods, upholstery, and wherever else your pets may shed.

The Elite's HEPA filtration system traps 99.97% of particles – like dust and dander from animals – inside the vacuum, so they're sealed in the disposable dust bag and removed from your living space where they would otherwise irritate allergies. An LED light illuminates when the bag needs to be changed.

Maneuvering a canister vacuum can take some getting used to because it has two parts – a body and a floor tool/hose – but the “strong suction” of the Elite that reviews tout makes it worth it for some shoppers. Plus, the brand says the Elite is easier to push on carpets than other vacuums thanks to nozzle technology that allows air to flow through the nozzle as it works.

Specs:

- **Price:** \$449.99
- **Vacuum Type:** Canister
- **Dimensions:** 27.76 inches L x 17.91 inches W x 13.98 inches H
- **Weight:** 22 pounds
- **Dustbin Capacity:** 3 liters
- **Bagged or Bagless:** Bagged
- **Corded or Cordless:** Corded
- **Attachments:** Yes

Best for Heavy Shedding: Bissell 2252 CleanView Swivel



[Buy From Amazon](#)

Pros:

- ✓ Comes in several sizes

✓ Reasonable price

✓ Washable filter

Cons:

— Dust cup is on the smaller side

— Just one tool included

If you've got a menagerie of pets, you need a vacuum with serious suction. Customers are drawn to the CleanView Swivel for a lot of reasons, including how well it tackles pet hair. As a corded upright vacuum, it swivels around corners and sucks up fur with a powerful Triple Action Brush Roll, which the brand says is designed to lift and remove deeply embedded hair.

The Pet TurboEraser tool, an accessory that can attach right to the machine for convenient storage, is suitable for stairs, windowsills, and anywhere else hair hangs around. The machine's Scatter-Free Technology works to suck up pesky dry messes (i.e., kibble or litter) that sometimes scatter around when vacuums blow on hard surfaces. It also has a carbon and foam PreMotor Filter that you can wash with mild detergent and air-dry.

Specs:

- **Price:** \$118.44
- **Vacuum Type:** Upright
- **Dimensions:** 13 inches L x 14 inches W x 44.5 inches H
- **Weight:** 12.5 pounds
- **Dustbin Capacity:** 1 liter
- **Bagged or Bagless:** Bagless
- **Corded or Cordless:** Corded
- **Attachments:** Yes

The Bottom Line

When it comes to vacuum shopping, it's a good idea to focus on what your biggest cleaning needs are at home (like banishing dust bunnies or pet hair) and where exactly you'll be using it. Not all vacuums work well on deep carpets or hardwoods, so determine which machine will fit the terrain of your home best. Since vacuums vary so much in size, you'll also need to think about where you'll stash your new machine. A stick or a handheld may be the best choice for people short on space, while a heavier upright with loads of attachments will suit someone with room for vacuum storage.

Things To Consider When Buying Vacuums for Pet Hair

Flooring Compatibility: Take into consideration the type of flooring you'll be cleaning. Many homes have a mix of carpet and hard flooring so a machine that can tackle pet hair on both is a must. High-pile carpet will require something powerful, so bear that in mind when you shop. It's also ideal to choose a model that can adjust its suction automatically based on where you're vacuuming (carpet or hardwood) or one that makes that transition with the press of a button. You can find that information in the manufacturer's details.

Size and Weight: Nobody wants to lug a giant vacuum around the house, and the truth is, if you have to carry a heavy vacuum around, you're less likely to reach for it. If you have a larger space, a larger vacuum – say 20 pounds or more in weight – may make sense if you have the room to store it and lots of square feet to vacuum. (Larger vacuums tend to have a bigger dust cup, which means you can vacuum more space without having to empty it.) For the vast majority of homes, something lightweight and easy to maneuver around corners – think furniture, counters, and appliances – is best. Always look at the manufacturer's specs when choosing a model of vacuum, as something too heavy or awkward to operate will most likely just collect dust.

Filter Type(s): “Vacuuming is a great way to reduce pet allergens,” says Micetich. She adds: “A common allergen is pet dander, which can be greatly reduced by vacuuming away pet hair regularly.” An added defense is a HEPA filter, which is recommended by cleaning professionals including David Ragsdale, a production manager of Servpro Industries, a cleanup and restoration company in Gallatin, Tennessee. HEPA filters can help remove allergy-causing particles from the air that you breathe in your home. According to [Corvus Janitorial](#), a commercial cleaning company, vacuums without a HEPA filter can recirculate these particles back into the air. Notably, the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) says a HEPA filter can remove at least 99.97% of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria, and any airborne particles with a size as small as 0.3 microns (μm).

Capacity: The larger the dust cup capacity, the more space you can vacuum without needing to empty it. For example, a machine that holds less than 1 liter of debris won’t cover as much surface area as a machine that holds 3 liters. That means you’ll suck up more pet hair without stopping. Stick vacuums or handheld devices typically have smaller dust cups than uprights or canisters. If you want to avoid putting your cleaning session on pause, your best bet is to opt for a model with a larger dust cup.

Cord Length and Power Source: For vacuum cleaners, a functional cord length ranges between 20 to 25 feet. With anything shorter than that, you’ll likely be limited in reach. When you’re shopping, think about where you’ll plug your vacuum in and how far you need it to reach. With cordless vacuums, you won’t have to worry about this element. If you choose a cordless model, you’ll need to focus on battery life versus cord length, and it’s wise to select a machine that recharges in a reasonable amount of time and lasts long enough to complete your tasks. Pet hair can travel fast, and you don’t want to miss the opportunity to catch it due to a dead battery.

Bagged vs. Bagless: There are obvious advantages to having a bagless vacuum cleaner. First, if you choose a bagged vacuum, you’ll need to make sure you’ve got replacement bags on hand to hold the debris your vacuum collects. Some people prefer the ease of a bagless model because, typically, the dust cup empties right into your trash can at the press of a button. The caveat of that, though, is that the debris you’ve vacuumed up from your floor is mere inches away from your face, and if you suffer from allergies, that can be problematic. Ragsdale of Servpro Industries prefers a bagged vacuum when it comes to tackling pet hair because “The bag acts as another filtration level and lessens exposure of the users to contaminants.”

Included Attachments: Pet hair can be pesky to keep up with. It flies through the air, rests on furniture, and covers carpets and curtains. If you have pets living with you, it's a good idea to choose a vacuum that has attachments that can help you capture fur. For instance, a crevice tool that can get behind couches, refrigerators, or any other hard-to-reach area is helpful, as is a handheld brush attachment that makes vacuuming furniture and stairs much easier. Vacuums that are marketed toward pet owners typically have one or more attachments. Attachments that are stored right on your new vacuum are best, offering easy access when you're in the thick of all that pet hair.

Maintenance: Like any appliance, a vacuum requires regular maintenance. Always read your manual when you buy a new vacuum so you can learn about how to care for it. The instructions will typically tell you how often to change filters, how to clean filters, or the type of replacement filter or dust bag you may need. Pet or human hair is likely to get caught in the roller brush head of your vacuum, says Micetich, but in most cases, it isn't too challenging to untangle when your vacuum is powered off and unplugged.

"Check the manual for your vacuum and see if it's possible to remove the roller brush head from the vacuum, this can make it a bit easier to get all the hair, but if not just flip the vacuum over to access the roller brush head," she says, and "Use a seam ripper to cut away all of the hair, this tends to work a bit more easily than scissors." HEPA filters should be changed regularly in order to function properly, [according to the EPA](#).

How We Chose the Best Vacuums for Pet Hair

At U.S. News 360 Reviews, our editors consulted with numerous experts including Mallory Micetich, a home expert for [Angi](#), a service that connects users to house cleaners, and David Ragsdale, a production manager of [Servpro Industries](#), a cleanup and restoration company in Gallatin, Tennessee. The main takeaway? The best way to combat pet hair is to vacuum frequently and choose a machine with great suction. We then narrowed our selection down with more thorough research considering price, weight, ease of use, and the author's personal experience of tackling pet hair in

her home. Overall, we found there’s a vacuum for every need and degree of pet in your space.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. [Amy Jamieson](#), the author of this piece, has more than two decades of experience in media. She began her career at People magazine, where she wrote some of the first product reviews about pets and baby products for the brand’s website. She has reviewed a wide variety of products from electric blankets to water bottles for brands like Consumer Reports, Forbes Vetted, and Well+Good. An animal lover and allergy sufferer, Jamieson has spent a lot of time cleaning up pet hair, cat litter, and kibble.

FAQ

How often should pet owners vacuum their homes?

+

What if pet hair gets tangled in my vacuum’s brush head?

+

Can vacuuming reduce pet allergens?

+

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