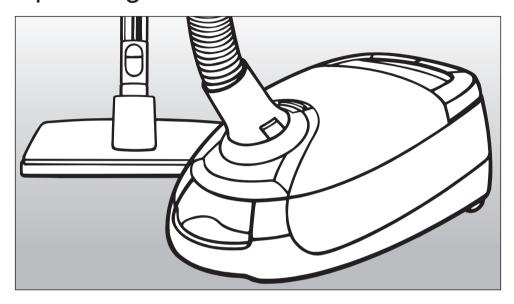


Operating instructions



Vacuum cleaner S 5981

To prevent accidents and appliance damage, read these instructions

before

installation and use.



en - US, CA

M.-Nr. 09 096 100

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When using an electrical appliance, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THIS APPLIANCE

Keep these operating instructions in a safe place and pass them on to any future user.

WARNING-

To reduce the risk of fire, electric shock or injury:

Before using

➤ Check the voltage rating of the vacuum cleaner before connecting the power cord to an electrical outlet. Your power source should correspond with the voltage rating plate located on the underside of the vacuum. Use only household AC outlets. Never use DC power sources. If you are not sure of your home's voltage supply, consult a qualified electrician. Connecting the vacuum cleaner to a higher voltage than indicated in these instructions may result in damage to the vacuum cleaner or injury.

- To reduce the risk of electric shock, this appliance has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other.) This plug will fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper outlet. Do not alter the plug in any way.
- A damaged vacuum cleaner can be dangerous. Check the packaging, vacuum cleaner and accessories for any signs of damage. Do not use a damaged appliance.
- Do not use with a damaged cord or plug. If the appliance is not working as it should, has been dropped, damaged, left outdoors or submerged in water, bring it to a service center.
- The electrical outlet must be fitted with a 15 A fuse.

Use

- Do not use on people or animals.
- Do not use outdoors or on wet surfaces. Only **dry** surfaces should be vacuumed.
- Use only as described in this manual. Use only Miele recommended accessories.
- Do not alter or modify the vacuum cleaner.
- This appliance is intended for household use only.
- Do not allow the vacuum cleaner to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used near children.
- Never use the vacuum cleaner without the dustbag or filters in place. Otherwise it could be damaged.
- If a dustbag is not inserted, the dust compartment lid will not close. Do not force it shut.
- Do not leave the vacuum plugged in. Unplug it from the outlet when not in use and before servicing.
- On the underside of the vacuum handpiece is a metal insert designed to absorb static electricity. Please make certain that your hand remains around this metal insert when vacuuming.
- Persons which lack physical, sensory or mental abilities or experience with the machine should not use it without supervision or instruction by a responsible person.

- Unwind the cord completely to aid the vacuum cleaner in dissipating heat.
- This vacuum should not be used to entrap or retain any hazardous materials.
- Do not use the vacuum cleaner to pick up liquids or damp dirt. This could impair the electrical safety of the vacuum cleaner. Wait for freshly shampooed carpets to dry.
- Do not vacuum anything that is burning or smoking such as cigarettes, matches or hot ashes. The vacuum cleaner could catch fire.
- Do not vacuum toner dust. Toner, such as that used in printers and photocopiers can conduct electricity.
- Do not use to pick up any flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, or use in areas where they may be present. The vacuum cleaner could explode.
- Do not vacuum up items which are heavy, hard or have sharp edges. They could cause a blockage and damage the appliance.
- Do not pull or carry by the cord, use the cord as a handle, close a door on the cord, or pull the cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not run the appliance over the cord. Keep the cord away from heated surfaces.

- Do not unplug by pulling on the cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
- Do not handle the plug or vacuum with wet hands.
- ► Keep the power cord, hair, loose clothing, fingers and all parts of the body away from openings and moving parts.
- Do not place anything into the openings of the vacuum cleaner. Do not use if any openings are blocked; keep them free of dust, lint, hair, or anything that may reduce air flow.
- This appliance is equipped with a power cord reel. Hold plug when rewinding onto cord reel. Do not allow plug to whip when rewinding.
- Turn off all controls before unplugging.
- Use extra care when cleaning on stairs.
- Floor attachments, accessories and wands must not be used at head level to avoid injury to eyes and ears.
- Monitor the dustbag change indicator and inspect all filters regularly. For best performance, the dustbag and filters should be replaced when necessary. A full bag or blocked filter will reduce the vacuum cleaner's suction power. A temperature limiter automatically switches the vacuum cleaner off if it gets too hot, see "Frequently asked questions".

Using accessories

- The hose and the telescopic wand contain electrical wires. Do not use the vacuum cleaner if these parts are damaged, cut or punctured. Avoid picking up sharp objects. Danger of electric shock!
- Unplug the vacuum when changing accessories, especially the Hose, Telescopic wand, Turbobrush and Powerbrush.
- To avoid the risk of injury when vacuuming with a Miele Power or Turbobrush do not touch the rotating roller brush. Danger of injury.
- The socket on the vacuum cleaner (depending on model) must only be used for the Miele Powerbrush specified for use with this appliance.
- Danger of injury. The Miele Powerbrush is a motor driven accessory for use only with Miele vacuum cleaners. The vacuum cleaner must not be used with another manufacturer's powerbrush.
- Do not use the vacuum cleaner without an accessory attached. The rim could be damaged and injuries could result from sharp edges.
- Miele dustbags are disposable and intended to be used only once. Do not attempt to reuse. An over stuffed dustbag will reduce the efficiency of the vacuum cleaner.
- Only use genuine Miele dustbags with the Miele quality signet and original Miele filters and accessories. Only then will the manufacturer guarantee its safety.

Cleaning, maintenance and repairs

- Turn the vacuum cleaner off after each use and before every cleaning / maintenance. Pull the plug from the outlet.
- Never submerge the vacuum cleaner in water. Clean only with a dry cloth or slightly damp cloth when disconnected from the mains supply. If moisture gets into the appliance there is a risk of electric shock.
- The electro-suction hose and the telescopic wand contain electrical wires. The plug connectors must not come in contact with water. These items may only be cleaned with a dry cloth, no moisture can touch them. Danger of electric shock.
- Repairs must only be performed by an authorized service agent in accordance with national and local safety regulations. Unauthorized repairs could cause injury or machine damage.
- If the power cord is damaged it should be replaced along with a new cable reel by Miele Technical Service.

Disposing of an old appliance

▶ Before discarding an old vacuum cleaner, please cut off the power cord and render the plug useless. Ensure the appliance presents no danger to children while being stored for disposal.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Guide to the vacuum cleaner

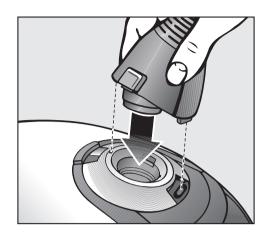


Guide to the vacuum cleaner

- 1 Hand piece
- ② Suction power buttons + / -
- 3 On/Off button for Powerbrush with LED
- 4 Standby button with LED for vacuum pauses
- 5 Power level display
- (6) Lock release button
- Telectro Telescopic wand
- 8 Electro Telescopic wand release button
- (9) Elbow
- 10 Dust compartment lid release
- 1 Dust compartment filter (motor protection)
- 12 Dustbag
- 3 Powerbrush (depending on model SEB 217 or SEB 236)
- 14 Carrying handle
- (5) Park-System (on both sides of the vacuum)
- 16 Active HEPA filter
- (17) Cord rewind switch
- 18 Power cord
- 19 Exhaust filter display and Reset button
- 20 Thermo indicator ∧
- 21 Park-System
- 22 "Ready to use" indicator light
- 23 Foot switch On/Off ①
- 24 Accessory compartment lid release
- 25) Airflow indicator

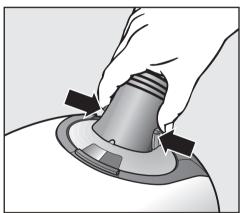
Connecting the Electro hose

■ Insert the elbow into the suction socket until it clicks. Use the inlet guides to direct insertion.



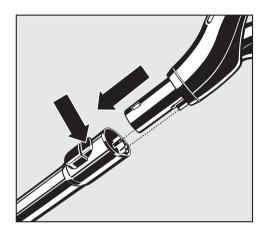
Disconnecting the Electro hose

■ Press the release buttons at the sides of the elbow and lift the hose from the socket.



Connecting the handpiece and Electro Telescopic wand

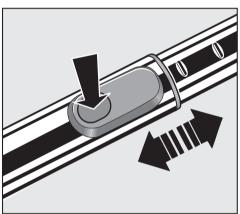
- Insert the handpiece into the electro telescopic wand until it clicks. Use the inlet guides to direct insertion.
- To release the handpiece from the telescopic wand press the locking button (see arrow) and pull the handpiece away from the telescopic wand.



Adjusting the Electro Telescopic suction wand

One part of the electro telescopic wand is fitted inside the other and can be adjusted to your height for comfortable vacuum cleaning.

Press the telescopic wand release button (see arrow) to release the tubes and adjust to the desired height.



Using the Powerbrush

The Powerbrush is particularly suitable for cleaning and restoring crushed carpet pile of wall to wall carpeting and floor coverings subject to hard wear, especially in high traffic areas.

The Powerbrush can also be used on smooth floor surfaces.

The standard floor brush or the Miele parquet floorbrush should be used to clean delicate hard flooring and floor surfaces susceptible to scratching.

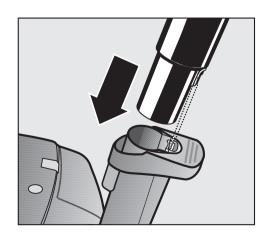
Do not use the powerbrush on:

- Floors with a variable or uneven surface. The brush could come into contact with the floor and cause damage.
- High quality, hand knotted rugs, for example Berber or Persian rugs, as well as extremely long piled area rugs and carpets. There is a danger of the threads being pulled out. Turn the Powerbrush off to vacuum these types of floor coverings and use only suction.

Connecting the Electro Telescopic wand and the Powerbrush

Insert the Electro Telescopic wand, pointing down, into the Powerbrush until it clicks into place.

For more information on use and maintenance please refer to the instructions supplied with the Powerbrush.



Using the standard floor brush

(depending on model)

Observe the cleaning instructions of the floor manufacturer.

The floor brush is suitable for cleaning carpets, rugs, and hard surfaces. For flooring susceptible to scratching, use one of the special Miele floor brushes (see "Optional accessories").

Connecting the Electro Telescopic wand to a floor tool

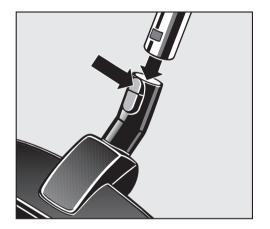
- Fit the Electro Telescopic wand firmly into the floor tool. Turn the wand in opposite directions until it locks with a click.
- To release the handpiece from the telescopic wand press the locking button (see arrow) and pull the handpiece away from the telescopic wand.

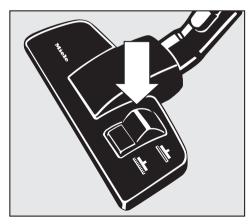
Adjusting the standard floor brush

For vacuuming carpets and rugs:

■ Press the foot switch marked

For vacuuming smooth floors:





Included accessories

The following accessories are included:

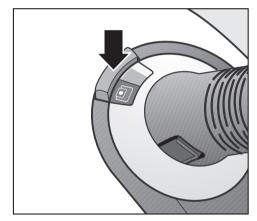
- 1) Crevice nozzle
- 2 Dust brush with natural bristles
- ③ Upholstery tool



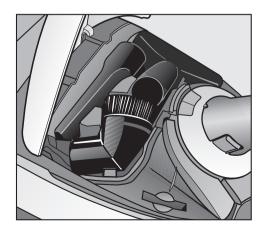
Taking the accessories out

■ Press the releasing lock (see arrow).

The accessory compartment opens.



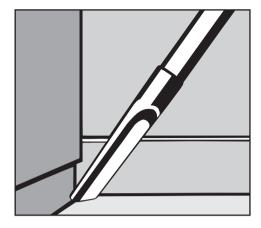
- Take out the accessory needed.
- Close the lid securely.



Included accessories

Crevice tool

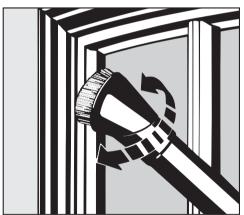
For cleaning in folds, crevices and corners.



Dust brush with natural bristles

For cleaning moldings, ornate or carved articles, etc.

The head of the dusting brush swivels and can be turned to attain the best cleaning position.



Included accessories

Upholstery tool

For cleaning upholstery, mattresses, cushions, curtains, covers, etc.



Standard floor brush

(depending on model)

The standard floor brush can be used for normal cleaning of carpets, rugs, hard surfaces, carpeted stairs, etc.

For safety, when vacuuming stairs it is best to start at the bottom and move upwards.



Power cord

Do not pull or carry by the cord, use the cord as a handle, close a door on the cord, or pull the cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not run the appliance over the cord. Keep the cord away from heated surfaces.

Do not unplug by pulling the cord. To unplug grasp the plug, not the cord.

This appliance is equipped with a power cord reel. Hold the plug when rewinding onto cord reel. Do not allow plug to whip when rewinding.

Unwinding

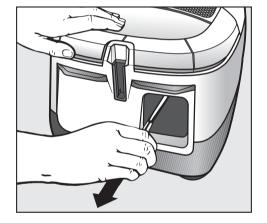
Hold the plug and pull out the power cord.

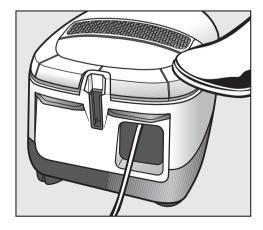
To reduce the risk of electric shock, the vacuum has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other). This plug will fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician. Do not alter the plug in any way.

Danger of overheating and damage.

Rewinding

- Unplug the vacuum from the outlet.
- Press the rewind switch the power cord will rewind automatically. Hold the plug so that it does not whip around when rewinding.



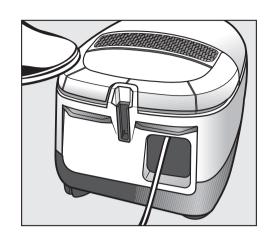


Use

Turning the vacuum On and Off

■ Press the On/Off foot control ①.

The indicator light will appear in the display and the LED will light on the hand piece.



- Press to select a lower power level.
- Press + to select a higher power level.



To pause the vacuum cleaner during operation:

■ Press the Stand-by button.

The LED on the handle will light up.

Only use Standby mode for short pauses during vacuuming. Do not leave the vacuum in Standby mode. After use turn the vacuum cleaner off and unplug it from the electrical supply.



Adjusting the suction

Use the + and - on the handpiece to adjust the suction to suit the type of flooring. By reducing the suction power the floor brush can be pushed easier.

The symbols on the controls indicate the type of use the settings are suitable for.

- □ curtains, lightweight fabrics
- upholstery, cushions
- thick pile carpets, rugs and runners
- energy saving, daily vacuuming with low noise level
- low pile carpets
- hard flooring and intensive cleaning of carpets
- Press and hold the + or button until the display shows the symbol of the desired power level.
- Press to select a lower power level.
- Press + to select a higher power level.

Each key press of the handpiece is displayed by the indicator light.



Use

While vacuuming

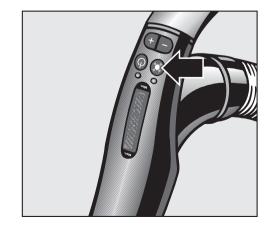
The vacuum cleaner can also stand on its end for vacuuming stairs, drapes etc.

To prevent static electricity your hand must touch the metal inlay on the underside of the vacuum handpiece. Be certain to continuously touch this inlay when vacuuming fine dust, flour or sawdust as these materials are more likely to create a static electricity. To further prevent static discharge while vacuuming, pull the vacuum along by the hose with one hand while continuing to hold the handpiece in the other hand.

Turning the Powerbrush on and off

The Powerbrush is turned on and off separately from the vacuum cleaner by pressing the switch on the handpiece.

The button allows you to turn off the Powerbrush, e.g. when moving from wall-to-wall carpeting to a persian rug.



Transport and storage

Park-System

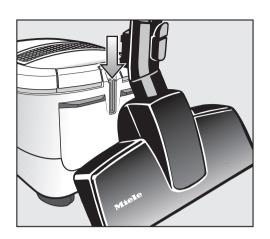
(Unable to be used with the powerbrush SEB 236)

A Park-System has been designed to conveniently park the telescopic wand at the vacuum cleaner during pauses.

A special parking attachment is fitted to all floor brushes. Insert the lower clip on the floor brush into the slot on the end of the vacuum cleaner from above.

Turning on and off with the Park-System

Parking the floor brush while vacuuming automatically turns the vacuum off. Lifting the floor brush out of the Park-System turns the vacuum back on.

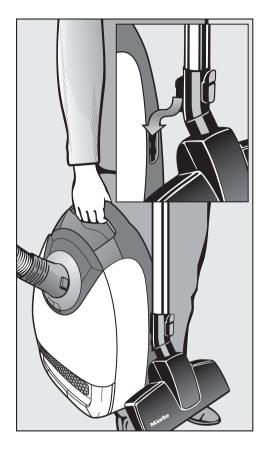


Transport and storage

Transport and storage

- For easier transportation and storage stand the vacuum cleaner vertically.
- Insert both clips of the floor brush into the two point holder on either side of the vacuum (this function cannot be used with the Powerbrush SEB 236).

This makes the vacuum easier to carry and store. Push the parts of the electro telescopic wand into each other for greater stability.



Turn off and unplug the vacuum cleaner before performing any maintenance work.

The Miele filter system consists of the following three components.

- Dustbag
- Exhaust filter
- Dust compartment filter

Each of these components must be changed periodically to maintain the vacuum cleaner's efficiency.

Only use Miele dustbags, filters and accessories with the "Original Miele" logo. Only then can the suction power of the vacuum cleaner reach its optimum potential creating the best possible cleaning results.

The use of dustbags made of paper or a similar material, or dustbags with a cardboard retaining plate can lead to serious damage to the vacuum cleaner and possibly voiding the warranty, just as with the use of dustbags without the "Original Miele" logo.

Purchasing new dustbags and filters

Original Miele dustbags and filters can be purchased from an authorized Miele vacuum dealer or by visiting the Miele store at http://store.miele.com.

Which dustbags and filters are the right ones

This vacuum cleaner uses Original Miele dustbags Type **G N** and an Original Miele filters, the "Original Miele" Logo will appear on the packaging or directly on the dustbag.





An "Air clean" exhaust filter and a dust compartment filter are supplied with every box of Miele dustbags. If you would like to purchase additional Miele filters separately, contact your vacuum dealer or Miele, please quote the model number of your Miele vacuum cleaner to ensure correct parts are ordered. These parts are also available to order from the online Miele store.

The exhaust filter supplied with the vacuum cleaner can be exchanged with another type of Original Miele filter (see "Exchanging exhaust filters").

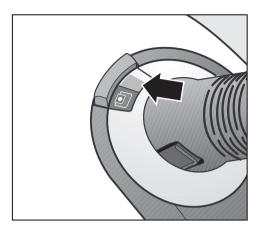
When to change the dustbag

Change the dustbag when the colored marker in the airflow indicator fills the display.

Miele dustbags are disposable and made to be used only once. Do not attempt to reuse.

Checking the airflow indicator

- Attach the standard floor brush (depending on model) to the vacuum cleaner. Perform this test with the standard floor brush only, since other attachments can affect the function of the airflow indicator.
- Turn the vacuum cleaner on and select the highest power level.
- Lift the floor brush slightly off the floor. If the marker completely fills the indicator window, the dustbag needs to be changed.



How the airflow indicator works

The airflow indicator is designed to show when the bag is full of common household dust and measures the amount of air flow through the dustbag. Normal household dust is a mixture of dust, hair, carpet fluff, threads, sand, etc.

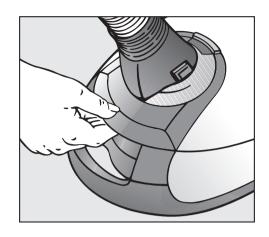
However, if fine dust, such as drill dust, sand, plaster or flour is vacuumed, the pores of the dustbag may become blocked. The marker will indicate that the bag is "full" even when it is not. The dustbag should be changed as the suction power is greatly reduced.

If the bag is bulging with pet fur, hair, carpet fluff, etc. the indicator may not register "full". This is because the air flow of the dustbag may still be high enough not to activate the marker to show maximum. The dustbag should still be changed.

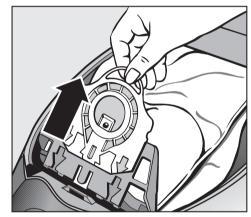
How to change the dustbag

■ Lift the release button for the dust compartment, raise the lid until it clicks into place.

The dustbag has a closing flap which closes automatically when the dust compartment lid is raised to prevent any dust from escaping.

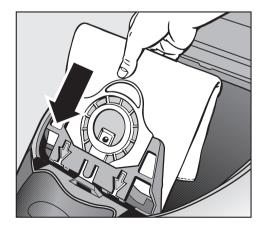


Grasp the collar and remove the dustbag from the holder.



- Insert the new dustbag as far as it will go into the dustbag holder. Do not unfold the dustbag when taking it out of the box.
- Unfold the dustbag in the dust compartment.
- Close the dust compartment lid until it clicks into place. Take care not to jam the dustbag in the lid.

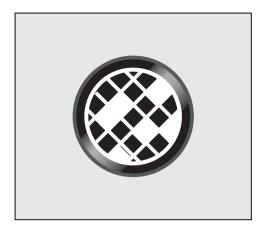
An empty-operation-barrier blocks the dust compartment lid from closing if no dustbag is inserted. Do not force it closed.



When to change the Active HEPA exhaust filter

Always change the Active HEPA filter when the filter change indicator (Reset button) lights. It is designed to light after approximately 50 hours of operation which is about a year of average use. You can continue to vacuum. However, the suction power will be reduced as will the effectiveness of the filter if it is not replaced.

You can replace the "Active HEPA" filter supplied with the cleaner with an "Air Clean" or an "Active Air Clean" filter (see "Exchanging exhaust filters").

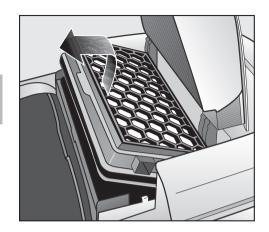


Replacing the "Active HEPA" filter

■ Open the dust compartment lid.

Do not use more than one filter at a time.

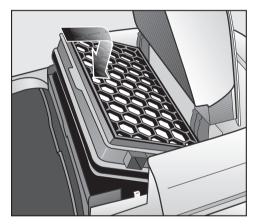
■ Lift and remove the filter.



■ Insert a new filter and press it downwards.

If you wish to replace the Air Clean filter with an Active Air Clean filter or Active HEPA filter see "Maintenance and care - Exchanging exhaust filters".

Close the dust compartment lid firmly until it clicks into place.



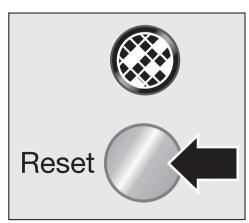
Resetting the filter change indicator

The filter change indicator (Reset button) must be reset each time the filter is replaced. To do this, the vacuum cleaner must be plugged in.

Press and hold the filter change indicator light until it goes out.

The display is now reset.

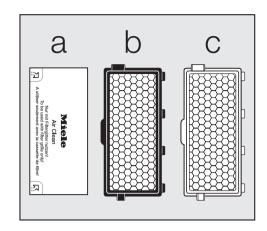
The indicator is only reset if pressed while lit. If the indicator is pressed while not lit, it will not be reset.



Exchanging Exhaust Filters

You can replace the **c** Active HEPA filter which is fitted as standard to your vacuum cleaner with either the:

- a Air Clean
- **b** Active HEPA (black)



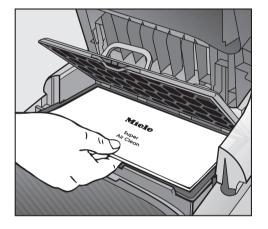
If replacing c with a, please note:

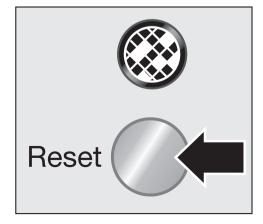
If you are using exhaust filter **a** you have to insert it into a filter frame, see "Optional accessories".

Do not use more than one filter at a time.

The dust filter reset button is designed for the changing cycle of the Active Air Clean filter and the Active HEPA filter.

If an Air Clean filter is used, the reset button can be disregarded. The Air Clean filter should be changed whenever a new box of Miele dustbags is opened. The indicator goes out when the reset button is pressed.



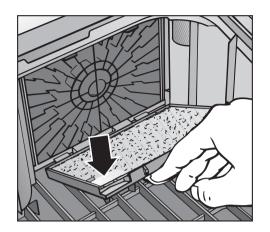


When to change the dust compartment filter

Change the filter each time you open a new box of genuine Miele dustbags. A dust compartment filter is supplied with every box of Miele dustbags.

How to change the exhaust filter

- Open the dust compartment lid.
- Lift the filter frame and remove the used exhaust filter at the clean side.
- Insert the new filter.
- Close the filter frame.



When to change the thread catcher

The thread catcher pads on the bottom of the standard floor brush (depending on model) and the upholstery tool should be replaced as soon as they appear worn.

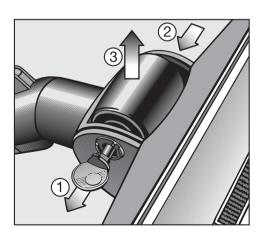
Changing the thread catcher

- Use a knife or similar object to remove the thread catcher pads from the slots.
- Press the new thread catcher into the slots.

Servicing the floor roller on the standard floor brush (depending on model)

- Use a coin to release the roller pin and pull it out.
- Push and take out the roller axle.
- Take out the roller.
- Remove all threads, hair, etc. and reassemble the parts.

New thread catcher pads can be purchased from any authorized Miele vacuum dealer or Miele.



Turn off the vacuum and unplug it from the outlet before performing any maintenance work.

Vacuum cleaner and accessories

The vacuum cleaner and other plastic accessories can be cleaned with a damp cloth or a cleaner suitable for plastics.

_______Do not use abrasive, glass or all purpose cleaners! They will damage the surface.

Dust compartment

The dust compartment can, if necessary, be cleaned using a **dry** cloth, dusting brush or a second vacuum to remove any dust.

Monitor the dustbag change indicator and inspect all filters regularly. Clean or replace them when necessary according to these Operating Instructions.

Do not submerge the vacuum in water. If moisture gets into the appliance there is the risk of an electric shock.

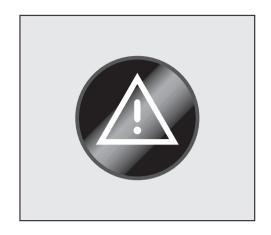
Frequently asked questions

What if the vacuum turns off automatically. A warning light <u>↑</u> comes on to indicate overheating.

The vacuum has overheated. The temperature limiter automatically turns the vacuum off.

This can occur if, for instance, large articles block the suction tube or when the filter bag is full or contains particles of fine dust. A heavily soiled exhaust or dust compartment filter can also be the cause of overheating. Turn the vacuum off and pull the plug from the outlet.

■ Check for any blockages and allow the vacuum to cool for 30 minutes.



Technical Service

In the event of a fault which you cannot fix yourself please contact the Miele Service Department at the phone number listed on the back of this booklet.

■ Please quote the model type of your appliance.

This can be found on the data plate on the bottom of the vacuum.

Some models come equipped with one or more of the following accessories.

Turbobrush - Turbo Comfort-3

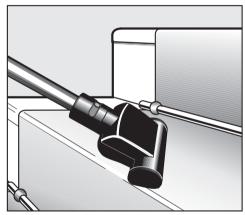
Observe the cleaning instructions of the floor manufacturer.

The Turbobrush is recommended for cleaning short to medium pile carpeting. It is mechanically driven by the suction power of the vacuum. In addition to dust particles it also removes stubbornly adhered threads, hairs and carpet fluff.



The Hand Turbobrush is intended for vacuuming upholstery, mattresses, car seats, carpeted stairs and other areas inaccessible with the standard Turbobrush.





Floor brush - Hardfloor-3

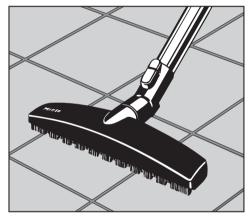
To vacuum sturdy hard floors, e.g. tiles and stone floors.



Floor brush - Parquet-3

Special brush with natural bristles intended for cleaning parquet and laminate floors, especially those susceptible to scratching.

The parquet floor brush can be cleaned with the vacuum cleaner using the crevice nozzle if necessary.

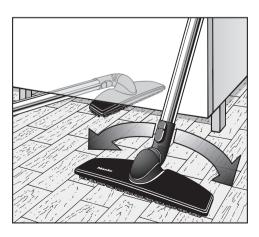


Floor brush - Parquet Twister with swiveling head

For cleaning all hard flooring, e.g. parquet and tiles. Especially suitable for vacuuming niches and tight spaces.

Floor brush - Parquet Twister XL with swiveling head

For cleaning all hard flooring, e.g. parquet and tiles. The wide head makes this brush ideal for cleaning large surfaces.



Universal brush SUB 20

For dusting books, shelves, etc. For use with the supplied adapter.



Mattress tool

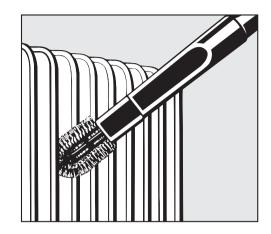
For cleaning deep crevices, mattresses and upholstery.



Radiator brush

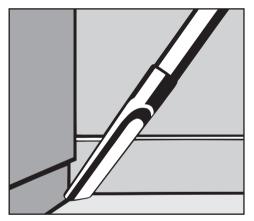
(only usable with the crevice nozzle)

For cleaning radiators, narrow shelves and crevices.



Crevice nozzle 12" (300 mm)

For cleaning in folds, crevices and corners.



MicroSet

This set is specially designed for cleaning small objects and difficult to reach areas (such as PC keyboards, stereo equipment, carved furniture, ornaments, models, etc).

The set consists of:

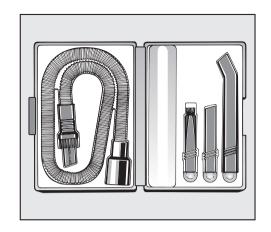
- Micro hose with combi nozzle (crevice nozzle and dust brush)
- Micro dust brush
- Micro crevice nozzle
- Extension

Active Air Clean filter

A special active charcoal filter which absorbs odors from the dust collected in the dustbag, helping to prevent odors. The "Active Air Clean filter" can be used in place of the existing exhaust filter.

Filter frame

The filter frame is needed if you would like to exchange an Active Air Clean or HEPA filter with an Air Clean filter, see "Maintenance and care - Exchanging exhaust filters".



Caring for the environment

Disposal of packing materials

The cardboard box and packing materials protect the appliance during shipping.

Ensure that any plastic wrappings, bags, etc. are disposed of safely and kept out of the reach of children. These items pose a danger of suffocation.

Disposing of the dustbag and filters

These are made from environmentally friendly materials and can be placed in the regular household garbage. However, if the dustbag contains prohibited waste, contact your local waste collection center for disposal instructions.

Please have the model and serial number of your appliance available before contacting Technical Service.



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M.-Nr. 09 096 100 / 01

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