



## Clean power

**Chris Barnes** gives you the lowdown on the latest vacs, and a heads-up on their energy efficiency

**E**nergy efficiency ratings are standard now for major appliances such as air conditioners, fridges and TVs, but the concept is moving on to other appliances. Vacuum cleaners are the latest target in Europe; a new law banning vacuum cleaners rated above 1600W came into effect last September, and vacuum cleaners sold there now carry energy-efficiency and cleaning performance labels. While there's currently no plan to introduce similar rules here, we're already seeing the energy-efficient European models appearing in Australia.

Does a lower-powered motor mean poorer performance? Not at all – after all, a V8 engine in a car doesn't guarantee the car will win races; the engine is just one factor. Several of our recommended models are rated at 1600W or less and there are other good performers in the table that use 1000W or less. But if you prefer a model with more power, don't worry; they're unlikely to disappear from our market any time soon.

### Quick cleaning

Our 'quick clean' test, introduced last year, continues to show which models are the best choice for those who mostly just give the carpet a few quick passes with the vacuum. In this test, the Hoover Allergy 7000PH/H4532 stands out as a good performer, achieving a good score for dirt pickup from carpet after just four passes. It's very good in our full dirt

### Nutshell

- 14 new vacuum cleaners tested including one upright model.
- New European energy-efficiency laws will have flow-on benefits for Australia.

pickup test (10 passes) but misses out on overall recommendation due to its borderline performance in cleaning corners and edges.

The table lists all the currently available models we've tested that score at least 75% overall, plus all newly tested models. Results for all other previously tested models can be found online at [choice.com.au/vacuumcleaners](http://choice.com.au/vacuumcleaners).

### PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED

<b>88% Sebo</b> Airbelt K3 Premium (Feb 12)	\$1099	<b>82% Sebo</b> Felix Premium (Oct 12)	\$999
<b>84% Miele</b> S6210 Compact (Apr 14)	\$369	<b>81% Miele</b> S6320 Compact Cat & Dog (Jun 12)	\$529
<b>83% Miele</b> S8320 Cat & Dog (Nov 13)	\$729	<b>80% Electrolux</b> UltraCaptic ZUC4103DEL (Nov 13)	\$899
<b>83% Zelmer</b> Solaris VZ5000HQ (Feb 12)	\$699	<b>80% Electrolux</b> UltraSilencer ZUS4065PET (Apr 14)	\$449
<b>82% Miele</b> S8310 (Apr 14)	\$529	<b>80% Vax</b> Zen 2 Pet VCZP1600 (Jun 12)	\$379
<b>82% Miele</b> S8790 HEPA Silence (Jul 13)	\$949		
<b>82% Nilfisk</b> Elite Comfort 107402946 (Aug 14)	\$599	(Month and year in brackets refers to the issue of <i>CHOICE</i> where model was first profiled)	
<b>82% Sauber</b> Intelligence SI-200 (Mar 13)	\$1599		

## WHAT TO BUY



**83%**  
**Electrolux UltraOne**  
**Deluxe ZUO9923PT**

### Good points

- Good at picking up dirt from carpet
- Excellent at picking up pet hair
- Very good at cleaning corners and along edges
- Telescopic wand
- Variable power
- Very long power cord
- Washable HEPA filter
- Good range of tools; onboard storage
- Excellent controls located at fingertip
- Very easy to position the bag in the machine and remove for disposal

### Bad points

- Nothing in particular



**83%**  
**Miele**  
**S771 Sprint Blue**

### Good points

- Very good at picking up dirt from carpet
- Excellent at picking up pet hair
- Very good at cleaning corners and along edges
- Telescopic wand
- Variable power
- Good range of tools; onboard storage
- Very easy to position the bag in the machine and remove for disposal

### Bad points

- Cleaning head is fairly tiring to move over the carpet



**82%**  
**Electrolux**  
**UltraFlex ZUF4203PET**

### Good points

- Good at picking up dirt from carpet
- Excellent at picking up pet hair
- Very good at cleaning corners and along edges
- Telescopic wand
- Variable power
- Very long power cord
- Washable HEPA filter
- Good range of tools; onboard storage

### Bad points

- Bin is easy to remove, but messy to empty



**80%**  
**Miele**  
**S8330 Hard Floor Twister**

### Good points

- Good at picking up dirt from carpet, and cleaning corners and edges
- Excellent at picking up pet hair
- Telescopic wand
- Variable power
- Very long power cord
- HEPA filter
- Good range of tools; onboard storage
- Easy to position and remove bag

### Bad points

- Cleaning head is fairly tiring to move over the carpet ▶

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK



### ABOUT THE REST

**O**f the other newly tested models, the **Nilfisk**, **Bosch**, **Dyson DC65 Animal** and **Hoover** are good overall and have good scores for dirt pickup from carpet (very good in the case of the Hoover). The **Dyson DC37C Origin**, **Samsung** and **Dirt Devil** are also good overall but only OK for dirt pick-up from carpet. If you have mainly hard floors, the Dirt Devil is a good low-cost option. The **Piranha** and **Russell Hobbs** are OK overall, mainly let down by their performance on carpet. The **Vax Air Pet VCAP100**, despite its name, is borderline for picking up pet hair and very poor at removing dirt from carpet.

What to look for

A **turbo head** has a rotating brush driven by airflow and a **power head** uses an inbuilt motor. Our testing shows the power head to be more effective in the main, though they do tend to be more bulky than standard or turbo heads.

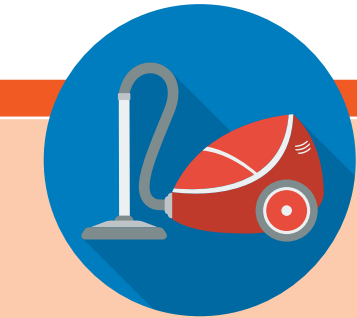
**Adjustable head height** allows you to adjust the height of the bristles on the cleaning head to the length of the carpet pile or for when you're vacuuming hard surfaces.

A **telescopic wand** lets you adjust the wand to suit your height so you don't have to bend too much.

**Dust collector** The advantage of a **bin** over a **bag** is that it has no ongoing costs; although some of the models with bins can be messy to empty. Standard tools to check for are **dusting**, **crevice** and **upholstery** brushes.

**Variable suction** allows you to lower the suction for delicate jobs, such as cleaning curtains. Variable power may lead to a quieter vac when using less power.

**HEPA filter** (high-efficiency particulate air) adheres to an international standard for filters that trap particles, which can help if you have asthma or a dust allergy or sensitivity. ■



	COSTS		PERFORMANCE					
	Price (\$)	Cost per bag (\$)	Overall score (%)	Dirt removal from carpet score (%)	Quick cleaning test score on carpet (%)	Ease of use score (%)	Cleaning corners and edges score (%)	Pet hair removal score (%)
Sebo Airbelt K3 Premium	1099	4.13	88	92	na	82	80	100
Miele S6210 Compact	369	4.50	84	78	na	82	85	100
• Electrolux Ultraone Deluxe ZU09923PT	619	5.35	83	78	65	82	84	100
• Miele S771 Sprint Blue	449	5.80	83	80	69	76	85	100
Miele S8320 Cat & Dog	729	3.60	83	79	na	81	80	100
Zelmer Solaris VZ5000HQ	699	5.00	83	83	na	77	79	100
• Electrolux Ultraflex ZUF4203PET	499	na	82	77	63	80	80	100
Miele S8310 Classic Family All Rounder	529	3.60	82	76	na	79	85	100
Miele S8790 Premium Total Care	949	3.60	82	75	na	82	85	100
Nilfisk Elite Comfort 107402946	599	9.30	82	75	63	84	79	100
Sauber Intelligence SI-200	1599	4.25	82	78	na	80	78	100
Sebo Felix Premium	999	3.00	82	90	na	66	75	100
Miele S6320 Compact Cat & Dog	529	5.80	81	74	na	79	85	100
Electrolux UltraCaptic ZUC4103DEL	899	na	80	74	na	79	80	100
Electrolux UltraSilencer ZUS4065PET	449	4.25	80	75	na	82	71	100
• Miele S8330 Hard Floor Twister	649	5.80	80	74	64	78	79	100
Vax Zen 2 Pet VCZP1600	379	na	80	72	na	81	80	100
Electrolux UltraSilencer ZUS4065OR	399	2.50	79	77	na	78	75	90
• Nilfisk Elite Superior 107402954	699	9.30	79	73	62	77	79	100
Miele S6330 Compact Allergy Expert	479	5.80	78	72	na	78	85	90
• Bosch Relaxx'x ProSilence 66 BGS5SL66AU	699	na	77	74	65	77	70	90
• Dyson DC37C Origin	699	na	77	63	56	82	80	100
• Hoover Allergy 7000PH/H4532	799	4.00	77	83	71	71	53	100
Hoover 7010PH Prestige	749	na	77	79	na	71	62	100
Rowenta Silence Force Extreme R0822183	550	na	77	71	na	78	76	90
Vax Air VAU1200	449	na	77	70	60	72	80	100
Wertheim Power Clean W4000	999	4.25	77	72	na	74	70	100
Electrolux Supercyclone SC6930	300	na	76	68	na	78	66	100
• Samsung CycloneForce Multi SC07F80HA	899	na	76	69	61	81	70	90
Sebo Airbelt K1 Pet	740	4.15	76	57	na	84	84	100
Zelmer Odyssey VZ450ST	299	5.00	76	60	na	82	81	100
Dyson DC50 Multi Floor	749	na	75	67	na	74	71	100
Shark Rotator Professional Lift-Away NV500NZ	550	na	75	82	65	60	60	100
Wertheim Dog and Cat W2000	399	4.25	75	65	na	80	65	100
• Dyson DC65 Animal	949	na	74	73	47	62	75	100
• Dirt Devil Rebel DDRC	130	na	73	60	52	81	74	90
• Piranha Sapphire SL154E	99	na	68	52	44	77	70	90
• Russell Hobbs HEPA Cyclonic RHF206P	100	na	61	46	33	83	65	50
• Vax Air Pet VCAP1500	349	na	52	24	16	81	70	50

	FEATURES						SPECIFICATIONS									
Noise (dB)	Carpet and hard floor head/Power head/Turbo brush/Hard floor tool	Crevice/upholstery tool/dusting brush	Onboard storage	Variable suction control	Variable power	HEPA filter	Type	Dust collector	Power measured (W)	Dust collector volume (L)	Reach from power point (m)	Weight (kg)	Origin	Contact		
71	✓/✓/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1600	1.9	9.6	9.8	Germany	sebo.com.au		
70	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1770	2.9	9.8	6.2	Germany	miele.com.au		
74	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1760	2.4	12.0	7.7	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
72	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1750	2.7	8.8	7.5	China	miele.com.au		
73	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1780	3.0	11.0	7.5	Germany	miele.com.au		
69	–/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1700	3.8	12.0	8.6	EU	zelmervacuums.com.au		
71	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1410	1.3	12.0	7.2	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
70	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1970	3.0	11.0	7.2	Germany	miele.com.au		
69	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1330	3.0	11.0	7.6	Germany	miele.com.au		
68	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1670	2.7	13.5	9.6	Denmark	nilfiskelite.net.au		
64	✓/✓/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓ (A)	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1260	2.6	12.5	9.4	Slovenia	godfreys.com.au		
74	–/✓/–/✓	✓/✓/–	✓	✓	✓	✓	Upright	Bag	1000	3.0	11.0	7.4	Germany	sebo.com.au		
70	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1750	2.4	9.6	6.5	Germany	miele.com.au		
70	–/✓/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1270	1.2	10.0	9.9	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
57	✓/–/✓ (mini)/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1300	2.1	12.0	7.9	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
68	✓/–/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1910	3.0	11.0	7.5	Germany	miele.com.au		
70	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1460	2.2	11.3	8.1	China	vax.com.au		
57	✓/–/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1290	2.4	12.0	7.7	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
71	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1660	2.6	13.6	9.6	China	nilfiskelite.net.au		
68	✓/–/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1800	2.8	9.6	6.2	Germany	miele.com.au		
59	✓/–/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	880	1.8	10.0	8.9	China	boschappliances.com.au		
73	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1340	1.3	9.8	7.2	Malaysia	dyson.com.au		
72	✓/✓/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1380	2.2	13.4	9.2	China	hooverfloorcare.com.au		
71	–/✓/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1230	1.1	10.0	8.7	China	hooverfloorcare.com.au		
59	✓/–/✓ (mini)/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	810	1.9	11.3	9.0	France	rowenta.com.au		
75	–/✓/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Upright	Bin	1250	1.0	7.0	5.3	China	vax.com.au		
74	✓/✓/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1700	3.4	11.0	11.6	China	godfreys.com.au		
76	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/–	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1780	1.6	8.8	7.2	Hungary	electrolux.com.au		
70	✓/–/✓ (mini)/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	770	1.0	12.5	9.8	Vietnam	samsung.com.au		
70	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1540	1.9	8.8	7.3	Germany	sebo.com.au		
70	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1240	1.6	9.2	6.3	EU	zelmervacuums.com.au		
75	–/✓/–/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Upright	Bin	750	0.6	8.0	5.4	Malaysia	dyson.com.au		
71	✓/✓/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Upright	Bin	950	2.0	9.5	7.9	China	1800 770 770		
71	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓ (B)	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bag	1320	2.1	9.3	7.0	China	godfreys.com.au		
78	✓/✓/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Upright	Bin	1390	1.4	10.0	7.6	Malaysia	dyson.com.au		
74	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1420	1.4	9.3	5.7	China	dirtdevil.com.au		
73	✓/–/–/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1530	1.7	8.0	5.8	China	hegroup.com.au		
80	✓/–/✓/✓	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1430	0.7	8.0	5.9	China	russellhobbs.com.au		
74	✓/–/✓/–	✓/✓/✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Barrel	Bin	1310	2.0	10.2	7.4	China	vax.com.au		

**USING THE TABLE** Price Recommended retail, as of November 2014. The typical annual running cost is about \$20. All models in the table except the Zelmer Odyssey have a dust-bag full indicator or a clear bin. Only the Sauber has a blower facility. **Scores** The overall score is made up of dirt removal from carpet (40%), ease of use (30%), cleaning corners and edges (15%) and pet hair removal (15%). All models scored 100% in the scratch test. The quick-clean test score is not yet factored into the overall score. **Noise** For comparison, a typical conversation is carried out at about 60dB, while city traffic is measured at around 80dB. **Features** See What to look for, opposite. **TABLE NOTES** • Newly tested. (A) One tool only. (B) Two tools only. na Not applicable.

