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Truckmount Carpet Extractors: Now is No Time for Them to Breakdown

By Chris Ryan — posted 09/16/2011



Early fall is very often the busiest time of the year for carpet cleaning technicians. And after three years of a tough economy, most technicians are looking forward to a busy back-to-school season. However, the last thing they want to happen is for their carpet extractor to break down.

To make sure technicians who use truckmount carpet extractors keep their equipment up and running—and running at its best—here are some key suggestions:

- Read the owner's manual for your truckmount system and keep it on the truck at all times—it can save the day
- Have a checklist of maintenance items that should be performed on a regular basis. This can be determined by the machine's running time or on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis
- Clean the recovery tank inlet screen or bag along with the inlet filter to the blower in the recovery tank each day
- Make sure the machine's wiring is tight and also inspect its wiring looms. A wiring loom is the cable tubing that helps organize the machine's wires and cables
- Ensure that accessible nuts and bolts are tight—replace them if they are damaged or rusted
- Remove and clean the garden-hose screen daily
- Lubricate the truckmount blower. Spray lubricant into the lube cup and allow the machine to run for two to three minutes.

Additionally, many technicians are now using vehicle-powered or clutch-drive truckmount systems. Although these systems have fewer components to check, technicians should check belts and pulleys to make sure they are clean with no evidence of wear and tear.

Chris Ryan is an engineer and project manager in the HydraMaster Engineering department. He writes an ongoing column called "Chris's Corner" specifically for other service and repair professionals in the carpet cleaning industry. He's been with HydraMaster for 15 years and is currently involved with research and development for the company. He may be contacted at chris.ryan@hydramaster.com.



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