

Small quantities of water can be removed from floors in any area by using an industrial-type water vacuum. This equipment operates in a manner similar to an ordinary vacuum cleaner, except that the electric motor is located so that vacuumed water is deposited into an attached metal or plastic container.

Industrial water vacuums range in capacity size from 3 to 20 gallons. One typical type of industrial vacuum is shown here.

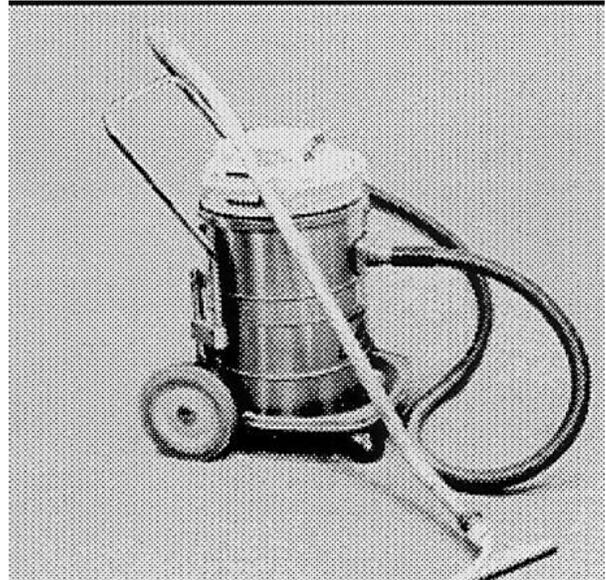


Figure 1. An industrial type of water vacuum is particularly well-suited for removing water from carpeting.

A more compact version of the industrial water vacuum is a backpack-type of vacuum (right). As with the larger industrial unit, cleaning operations are greatly simplified with the use of the portable water vacuum (also known as the "water vac"). This aids in reducing water damage to absorbent materials such as carpeting. Water vacuums have a suction powerful enough to extract water from even deep pile carpeting. Dirt and small debris may also be removed from carpeting as well as from tile and other types of floor coverings. The backpack water vacuum usually has a capacity of 4 or 5 gallons and can be emptied by pulling a lanyard that empties the water through the nozzle. Care must be taken to discharge debris into small drains due to the possibility of overflow.



Figure 2. The backpack water vacuum is widely used in the fire service. It is an efficient suction device but must be emptied frequently due to a limited storage capacity.