



BEST PRACTICES

Vacuum Truck Operations

Reduce hazards and improve productivity

Follow these helpful tips when operating your vacuum truck to obtain the best performance and reduce hazards.

Hose size matters

Choosing the proper hose size can impact the performance of your machine and the time it takes to complete a job. Hose diameter is extremely important in getting the most out of your truck. For example, a common mistake many operators make is starting with 8" hose and reducing it down to a 4" hose. With this reduction in diameter, the velocity of the air/material changes so much that the material starts falling out and clogging the hose. It's important that the cross-section of area stays as consistent as possible throughout the length of the hose. If you must reduce the hose size, consider using one of our Y's, such as an 8" to 4" x 4", as this apparatus will minimize the negative effect associated with the area change.

Smooth bore hoses are your friends

While corrugated hoses are lightweight and easy to handle, they often hurt the performance of your vacuum loader, particularly over long distances, because the frictional losses in corrugated hose are substantial. For any work that requires long runs of hose, choose smooth-bore pipe or smooth-bore rubber hoses for the entire run, except for the last 20 feet or so. You will achieve the performance you need, while making life easier for the operator at the end of the hose.

Keep hose/tubing set-ups as straight as possible

Whenever you must turn, avoid using 90 degree elbows if at all possible. Instead, consider using our 45 degree elbows or making the turn using an 8 to 10 foot section of smooth bore hose, such as our Green Monster. Turns are where the most wear occurs in the set up, so they require a stronger hose.

Install an inline safety "T" vacuum breaker in all setups

An inline "T" is a mechanical device that can break/kill the vacuum in case of an emergency. Most plants require the use of these devices. While the majority of modern vacuum trucks come standard with multiple vacuum relief valves, always install an inline safety "T" between the very last section and the working end of the hose. Locate it where the operator can pull the safety rope if there is an emergency.

Know what you are vacuuming

Prevent static electricity buildup by properly grounding the vacuum truck prior to operation. A ground detection system is a good way to know that a true ground exists. Air movers should never be used on low flash-point point materials. Always ensure that the products you plan to vacuum are compatible with the material previously vacuumed to avoid chemical reactions. We stock all types of grounding and ground fault detections systems and these can be retrofitted to most vacuum trucks.

Stay safe

Always consider the debris body, cyclone, or bag house as a confined space and take appropriate action prior to entry. If the vacuum loader is not equipped with hand rails and platforms, always use fall protection when working on top of the unit.

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