

# Robot vacuum buying guide

## Table of Contents

1. [What is a robot vacuum?](#)
2. [How robot vacuums navigate your home](#)
3. [Basic features to look for in a robot vacuum](#)
4. [Different categories of robot cleaners](#)
5. [How to care for your robot vacuum](#)

## What is a robot vacuum?

Robot vacuums are small, self-propelling vacuums that clean your hard floors and carpets using sensor-based navigation.

## How does a robot vacuum differ from other types of vacuums?

1. Unlike other home vacuums, robot vacuums operate largely **autonomously**.
2. Basic models operate at the **touch of a button**.
3. Advanced models can be **scheduled** to clean your home while you're asleep or away.

## Can you own a robot vacuum without another home vacuum?

- Robot vacuums are excellent for daily maintenance.
- Most households will require a regular vacuum for deep and specialized cleans.

## How robot vacuums navigate your home

1. **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging):** Laser-based navigation map your home through distance and data points. Often faster than SLAM navigation.
2. **SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping):** Vacuums use cameras generate a map by identifying visual landmarks like furniture or walls. Both technologies are very effective. Some models may offer intelligent object avoidance.

3. **Bump-and-run technology:** Uses random motion to navigate your home.
4. **IN (Inertial Navigation):** An older technology that runs more slowly but is common in some entry-level robot vacuum models.

## Basic features to look for in every robot vacuum

Every robot vacuum, even at the entry level, comes with information on features such as battery size and suction power. Check out Best Buy's "More Information" and "Details & Specs" sections on each product page to learn more about a vacuum's suction power (measured in Pascals), run time, and waste bin size.

### Common features include:

- App-based scheduling,
- Voice control,
- Stored home maps, and
- Suction variability.

### Your first robot vacuum checklist:

1. Does this vacuum have the suction power I need for my home?
2. How often will I need to empty this vacuum?
3. Does the battery life offered in this vacuum suit the size of my home?
4. Can I schedule this model of vacuum?
5. Does this model of vacuum offer voice assistant control through services like Alexa or Siri?
6. Can this vacuum fit underneath my furniture, including chairs, buffets, and bed frames?
7. Do I have a spot where I can dock my vacuum with sufficient space around it?

### Specialized robot vacuum features

1. **Multi-mapping:** If you live in a larger home with multiple floors, multi-floor map storage can be incredibly handy as it'll help your vacuum clean each floor quickly without needing to re-map them.

2. **Smart mapping:** Smart maps allow the user to label each room in their in-app home map. With high-end smart map control, you can send your vacuum to clean specific rooms or areas as needed.
3. **Smart object identification/avoidance:** A camera-based technology currently being developed in many high-end vacuums. Vacuums with object recognition technology use a camera—or LiDAR with an additional camera—to identify and avoid common objects in the home. This can include pet waste, cords, slippers, socks, and more.
4. **Spot cleaning:** Vacuums with enhanced smart mapping often offer you the ability to send your vacuum out to a specific spot to perform cleaning using the app. More basic models often also have a spot cleaning button on the vacuum itself that help you target messy areas.

## Other specialized robot cleaning features

- Invisible barriers,
- No-go zones,
- Quiet mode vacuuming,
- Voice control,
- Cleaning time estimates, and
- HEPA filtration.

## Different categories of robot cleaners

1. **Basic robot vacuums:** Look for a basic robot vacuum for hands-free cleaning on (or, rather, outside of) your schedule.
2. **Self-emptying robot vacuums:** Upgrade to a self-emptying robot vacuum for hands-free cleaning with even less maintenance. These vacuums return to their base whenever their dustbin is full and empty their contents into a larger receptacle that needs infrequent emptying. Great for large homes.
3. **Robot mops:** Robot mops clean your floors with water. Some models are available with an integrated dry vacuum; some feature only a mopping function; and some are self-washing.

## **How to care for your robot vacuum**

Like with any other vacuum, proper care and maintenance of your robot vacuum will help you keep your appliance in tip-top shape for as long as possible. Follow your device's in-app tips and reminders for the best performance.

## **Who can benefit the most from a robot vacuum?**

Robot cleaning devices are great for:

1. Busy professionals,
2. Families,
3. Households with pets,
4. The elderly and those with limited mobility;
5. Saving time,
6. Cleaning more frequently, and
7. Reducing household allergens and dust.