



Superpro, Velo, Duo and Micron backpack vacuums risk assessment

Every business has its own challenges in ensuring the safety of its employees against workplace accidents.

Therefore, it's essential for management to identify risks, and subsequently implement and maintain high levels of health and safety precautions within the workplace.

This document was designed to help management identify risks, potential injury or harm to health associated with tasks requiring a backpack vacuum cleaner.

Note: Location specific risks are excluded in this analysis.

Hazard identification

The following potential hazards have been identified while using backpack vacuum cleaners, and are applicable to the Superpro, Velo, Duo, and Micron.

Task or Action	Potential Hazard
Lifting the vacuum off the floor preparing for use	Back strain
Stretching to put the backpack on	Pulling muscles
Wearing backpack incorrectly	Back or shoulder strain
Contact with the power cord and/or plugging into the power socket	Electric shock or electrocution
Pushing and pulling motion whilst vacuuming	Shoulder or arm strain
Persistent overhead use with wand and floor tool	Shoulder or arm strain
Use whilst bending over	Back strain
Use whilst crouching	Pulling muscles
Vacuums stairs	Tripping, falling over, losing balance
Vacuums liquids	Electric shock or electrocution

Repetitive body twisting	Pulling muscles
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Hazards applicable to Duo only

Task or Action	Potential Hazard
Placing backpack on a wet floor whilst unit is running	Electric shock or electrocution
Carrying or holding the power cord in your hands or near your body during operation.	Electric shock or electrocution
Using power cords that are twisted, tangled or not fully uncoiled	Electric shock or electrocution, burn or fire
Using the machine if the power cord is compromised or damaged	Electric shock or electrocution, burns, tripping
Removing of dust from dust bag	Air quality
Unfamiliar noise or high pitch noise while machine is turned on or in operation	Noise pollution

Risk rating table

Consequences of any injury or harm to health

Likelihood of Injury or harm to health	Insignificant (eg no injuries)	Moderate (eg first aid / medical treatment)	Major (eg extensive injuries)	Catastrophic (eg fatalities)
Very Likely	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Moderate	Low	High	Extreme	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Highly unlikely (rare)	Low	Moderate	High	High

Risk assessment

We've put together the following guide to help organisations identify the risks associated with their profession whilst using a Pacvac backpack vacuum cleaner.

This Risk Assessment brochure can be used for the following applications:

- Tendering
- WH&S compliance
- Staff and employee training

Please contact support@pacvac.com for further questions.

Hazard	Low Frequency	Medium Frequency	High Frequency	Rating
Lifting the vacuum off the floor preparing for use	X			Low
Stretching to put the backpack on			X	Low
Wearing backpack incorrectly			X	High
Contact with the power cord and / or plugging into power socket	X			Extreme
Pushing and pulling motion whilst vacuuming			X	Low
Persistent overhead use with wand and floor tool	X			Low
Use whilst bending over		X		High
Use whilst crouching	X			Low
Vacuuming stairs			X	High
Vacuuming liquids	X			Extreme
Repetitive body twisting			X	Low
Placing backpack on a wet floor whilst unit is running	X			Extreme

Carrying or holding the power cord in your hands or near your body during operation.			X	Extreme
Using power cords that are twisted, tangled or not fully uncoiled			X	Extreme
Using the machine if the power cord is compromised or damaged			X	Extreme
Removing of dust from dust bag	X			High
Unfamiliar noise or high pitch noise while machine is turned on or in operation	X			Low

Risk control measures

The following risk control measures should be taken to eliminate and minimise the potential for injury or harm to health.

Pacvac have a free online training portal, Pacvac Academy, where users can gain training and certification in the correct use and maintenance of their machines including Superpro, Velo, Duo and Micron backpack vacuum cleaners.

Task or Action	Potential Hazard	Risk Control Measures
Lifting the vacuum off the floor preparing for use	Back strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure familiarity with the Code of Practice - Hazardous manual tasks as issued by the Commission of Occupational Safety and Health • Always bend at the knees to lift or lower.
Stretching to put the backpack on	Pulling muscles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always stretch the body thoroughly before machine use.

Wearing backpack incorrectly	Back or shoulder strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Product and Training Manual of the machine. ● Complete relevant machine training online at academy.pacvac.com.
Contact with the power cord and / or plugging into power socket	Electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check all cords and machines have a current 'Test and Tag' before every use. ● Check the power cord for damage before every use. ● Ensure plugs and sockets are properly connected before every use. ● Ensure either the building or the machine has an RCD. ● If the backpack vacuum is fitted with an RCD, check the RCD has a current 'Test and Tag'. Test the RCD with its 'test' button before each use. ● Read the Product and Training Manual of the machine. ● Complete relevant machine training at academy.pacvac.com. ● Follow the 'Safety and Maintenance' label on the backpack vacuum cleaner.
Pushing and pulling motion whilst vacuuming	Shoulder or arm strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use the manufacturer's recommended floor tool. ● Follow "fishbone method" of vacuuming found online at academy.pacvac.com. ● Read Product and Training Manual of the machine. ● Take appropriate breaks from this task.
Persistent overhead use with wand and floor tool	Shoulder or arm strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use extendable metal wands to further your reach and eliminate the need to stretch above shoulder height. ● Take appropriate breaks from this task.
Use whilst bending over	Back strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not use the vacuum whilst bending over. ● Follow "Operate Right" instructions in the Product and Training Manual of the machine
Use whilst crouching	Pulling muscles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not crouch whilst using the machine. ● Follow "Operate Right" instructions in the Product and Training Manual of the machine. ● Complete relevant machine training at academy.pacvac.com.
Vacuuming stairs	Tripping, falling over, losing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure the power cord is always behind you when vacuuming.

	balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not back track whilst vacuuming. Do not turn while on stairs. Always vacuum while climbing up stairs. Turn machine and power off before guiding the power cord out of your way when climbing downstairs.
Vacuuming liquids	Electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not vacuum liquids. Read Product and Training Manual of the machine.
Repetitive body twisting	Pulling muscles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not twist your body, instead, turn your whole body to face the direction you're cleaning in. Read the Product and Training Manual of the machine and follow the 'fishbone method' of vacuuming found on academy.pacvac.com. Complete relevant machine training at academy.pacvac.com.
Placing backpack on a wet floor whilst unit is running	Electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not place machine on wet floor and never place Duo on a surface whilst the machine is running. Read Product and Training Manual of the machine.
Carrying or holding the power cord in your hands or near your body during operation.	Tripping, injury, electric shock, or electrocution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always ensure the power cord is fully unwound before use. Do not carry or hold the power cord while the machine is in operation.
Using power cords that are twisted, tangled or not fully uncoiled.	Tripping, burn, electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never use power cords that are twisted, tangled, looped or not fully unwound. Always ensure the power cord is fully unwound before use. Follow Pacvac Academy to correctly wind or unwind the power cord.
Using the machine if the power cord is compromised or damaged	Severe burns, fire, electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect the power cord for any signs of damage before each use. Do not use the machine if the power cord is compromised or damaged.
Removing of dust from dust bag	Poor air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mask to avoid dust inhalation and gloves to avoid cuts and abrasions for the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always ensure the dust bag is properly disposed of in a lined rubbish bin to contain dust.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure dustbags and filters are free from damage after removing them. ○ Clean the vacuum unit and replace the dust bag once full to prevent dust buildup and ensure proper operation.
Unfamiliar noise or high pitch noise while machine is turned on or in operation	Noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Never use a vacuum that makes unfamiliar sounds or doesn't work as expected. ● Attach an "Out of Service" tag and report any faulty vacuum cleaners for inspection or repair.

Conclusion

Free additional training can be found at academy.pacvac.com; Pacvac's free online training portal created to support organisations in training their staff in the correct use and maintenance of backpack vacuum cleaners.

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