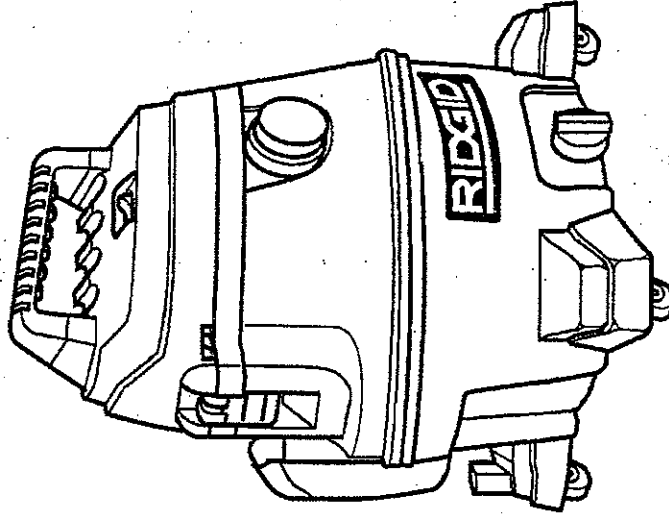


# RIDGID®

**OPERATOR'S MANUAL**  
**14 U.S. GALLONS/ 53 LITERS**  
**PROFESSIONAL WET/DRY VAC**

**WD1450**



**FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT US AT**  
**CALL 1-800-4-RIDGID (1-800-474-3443) OR**  
**[www.ridgidvacs.com](http://www.ridgidvacs.com)**

**▲ WARNING:**

To reduce the risk of injury, the user must read and understand the operator's manual before using this product.  
Thank you for buying a RIDGID product.

**SAVE THIS MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Safety is a combination of common sense, staying alert, and knowing how your wet/dry vacuum cleaner ("Vac") works.

### Safety Signal Words

**▲ DANGER:** Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

**▲ WARNING:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

**▲ CAUTION:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

When using your Vac, always follow basic safety precautions including the following:

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, or injury:

- Read and understand this operator's manual and all labels on the Wet/Dry Vac before operating.
- Use only as described in this manual.
- Do not leave Vac running while unattended.
- Sparks inside the motor can ignite flammable vapors or dust. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, do not vacuum or use near flammable or combustible liquids, gases, or explosive dusts, such as gasoline or other fuels, lighter fluid, cleaners, oil-based paints, natural gas, hydrogen, coal dust, magnesium dust, aluminum dust, grain dust, or gun powder.

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• Do not vacuum anything that is burning or smoking, such as cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes.

• Do not vacuum drywall dust or cold fireplace soot or ash with standard filter. This is a very fine dust which may be exhausted back into the air. Use a fine dust filter instead.

• To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dust, do not vacuum toxic materials.

• Do not use or store near hazardous materials.

• To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not expose to rain or allow liquid to enter motor compartment. Store indoors.

• Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children.

• Do not use with a torn filter or without the filter installed except when vacuuming liquids as described in the Operation section of this manual. Dry debris ingested by the impeller may damage the motor or be exhausted back into the air.

**WARNING:** The power cord on this product contains lead, a chemical known in the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

*Wash hands after handling.*

• Do not leave Vac plugged in. Unplug from outlet when not in use and before servicing.

• Turn off Vac before unplugging.

### Cleaning A Dry Filter

**NOTE:** For best cleaning results due to accumulated dust, clean the filter in an open area. Cleaning SHOULD be done outdoors and not in the living quarters.

1. Remove filter from vac. Gently tap filter against the inside wall of your dust drum. The debris will loosen and fall.
2. For thorough cleaning of dry filter with fine dust (no debris), run water through it as described under "Cleaning A Wet Filter".

### Cleaning A Wet Filter

After filter is removed, run water through the filter from a hose or spigot. Take care that water pressure from the hose is not strong enough to damage filter.

Remember: To dry a filter quickly, reinstall the filter on the vac and allow the unit to run for approximately 10 minutes. The clean air rushing through the filter will dry it.

**IMPORTANT:** After cleaning, check the filter for tears or small holes. Do not use a filter with holes or tears in it. Even a small hole can cause a lot of dust to come out of your vac.

**IMPORTANT:** If your filter is damaged or worn, replace it immediately.

### Installation

Refer to "Replacement Filter Assembly" Section of this manual.

Allow the filter to dry before reinstalling and storing the vac.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting the Wet/Dry Vac

To keep your Wet/Dry Vac looking its best, clean the outside with a cloth dampened with warm water and mild soap.

- To clean the drum:
1. Dump debris out.
  2. Wash drum thoroughly with warm water and mild soap.
  3. Wipe out with dry cloth.

Before prolonged storage or as needed (i.e., waste water pick up) the drum should be disinfected.

To disinfect the drum:

1. Pour 1 gallon of water and 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach into the drum.
2. Let solution stand for 20 minutes, carefully swishing every few minutes, making sure to wet all inside surfaces of the drum.
3. Empty drum after 20 minutes. Flush with water until bleach smell is gone. Allow drum to dry completely before sealing the motor on the drum.

### Storage

Before storing your vac, the dust drum should be emptied and cleaned. The cord should be wrapped around the unit and the hose should be stored as described in this manual. Accessories should be kept in the same area as the vac so they can be readily available. The vac should be stored indoors.

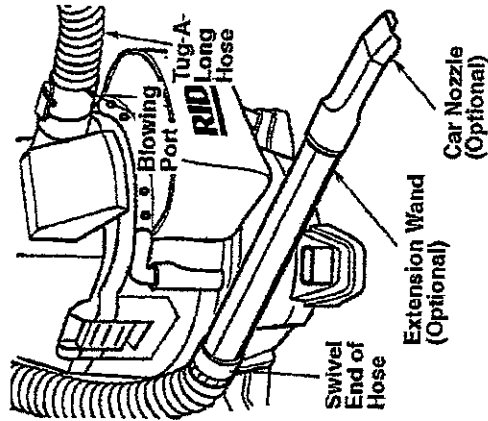
### Casters

If your casters are noisy, you may put a drop of oil on the roller shaft to make them quieter.

**▲ WARNING:** To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs and adjustments should be performed by Independent Service Centers, always using RIDGID replacement parts.

## Operation (continued)

- (Optional) Attach extension wand to opposite end of hose, then place the car nozzle on the wand.
- Turn vac on and you are ready to use your vac as a blower.



## Maintenance

### Filter

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of injury from accidental starting, unplug power cord before changing or cleaning filter.

Your 14 Gallon Professional Wet/Dry Vac is supplied with RIDGID's VF5000 Fine Dust Filter. Replacement VF5000 Fine Dust Filters are available where you purchased your vac. Ask for the RIDGID VF5000 Fine Dust Filter.

**NOTE:** The filter is made of high quality paper designed to stop very small particles of dust. The filter can be used for dry pick up or small amounts of liquid. Handle the filter carefully when removing to clean or installing it. Creases in the filter pleats may occur from installation but will not affect the performance of the filter.

### Filter Removal

To remove the filter for cleaning or replacement, unscrew the filter nut from the filter cage, remove filter plate and lift off filter.

**▲ WARNING:** Do not remove the filter cage and float. The float prevents water from entering the impeller and damaging the motor. The cage prevents fingers from touching the moving impeller.

**IMPORTANT:** To avoid damage to the blower wheel and motor, always reinstall the filter before using the vac for dry material pick-up.

- To reduce the risk of injury from accidental starting, unplug power cord before changing or cleaning filter.
- Do not unplug by pulling on cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
- Do not use with damaged cord, plug or other parts. If your Vac is not working as it should, has missing parts, has been dropped, damaged, left outdoors, or dropped into water, return it to an Authorized Service Center.
- Do not pull or carry by cord, use cord as handle, close a door on cord, or pull cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not run Vac over cord. Keep cord away from heated surfaces.
- Do not handle plug, switch, or the Vac with wet hands.

Do not put any object into ventilation openings. Do not vacuum with any ventilation openings blocked; keep free of dust, lint, hair or anything that may reduce air flow.

Keep hair, loose clothing, fingers, and all parts of body away from openings and moving parts.

To reduce the risk of falls, use extra care when cleaning on stairs.

To reduce the risk of back injury or falls, do not lift a Vac that is heavy with liquid or debris. Partially empty the Vac by scooping or draining liquid to make it comfortable to lift.

To reduce the risk of personal injury or damage to Vac, use only Ridgid recommended accessories.

When using as a blower:

- Direct air discharge only at work area.
- Do not direct air at bystanders.
- Keep children away when blowing.
- Do not use blower for any job except blowing dirt and debris.
- Do not use as a sprayer.
- Wear safety eyewear.
- To reduce the risk of eye injury, wear safety eyewear. The operation of any utility Vac or blower can result in foreign objects being blown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage.
- This Wet/Dry Vac is double-insulated, eliminating the need for a separate grounding system. Use only identical replacement parts. Read the instructions for Servicing Double-Insulated Wet/Dry Vacs before servicing.

- Use only extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Extension cords in poor condition or that are too small in wire size can pose fire and shock hazards. To reduce the risk of these hazards when using an extension cord, be sure it is in good condition and that the connection does not come into contact with liquid. To keep power loss to a minimum, use the following table to choose the minimum wire size extension cord:

Extension Cord Length	Gauge A.W.G.
0-50 Ft.	14
50-100 Ft.	12

### ▲ CAUTION:

- To reduce the risk of hearing damage, wear ear protectors when using for extended hours or using in a noisy area.
- For dusty operations, wear dust mask.

**NOTE:** Static shocks are common in dry areas or when the relative humidity of the air is low. Vacuuming fine debris with your Vac can deposit static charge on the hose or on the Vac. The best remedy to reduce the frequency of static shocks in your home or when using this Vac is to add moisture to the air with a humidifier.

Observe the following warnings that appear on the motor housing of your Vac:

**DOUBLE INSULATED**  
**GROUNDING NOT REQUIRED.**  
**WHEN SERVICING USE ONLY IDENTICAL REPLACEMENT PARTS.**

**▲ WARNING:** For your own safety, read and understand operator's manual. Do not run unattended. Do not pick up hot ashes, coals, toxic, flammable or other hazardous materials. Do not use around explosive liquids or vapors.

**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of electric shock - do not expose to rain - store indoors.

**SAVE THIS MANUAL**

# Operation

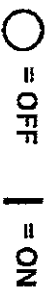
**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, do not operate this vac in areas with flammable gases, vapors or explosive dust in the air. Flammable gases or vapors include but are not limited to: lighter fluid, solvent type cleaners, oil-base paints, gasoline, alcohol or aerosol sprays. Explosive dusts include but are not limited to: coal, magnesium, aluminum, grain or gun powder. Do not vacuum explosive dust, flammable or combustible liquids or hot ashes. Do not use this vac as a sprayer. To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dusts, do not vacuum toxic materials.

**▲ WARNING:** The operation of any utility vac can result in foreign objects being blown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage. Always wear safety eyewear complying with ANSI Z87.1 (or in Canada, CSA Z94.3) before starting operation. Safety eyewear are available at many local retail stores.

**▲ CAUTION:** To reduce risk of hearing damage, wear ear protectors when using the vac for extended hours or when using it in a noisy area.

To reduce the risk of electric shock, this appliance has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other). The plug will fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper outlet. Do not change the plug in any way.

After you plug the power cord into the outlet, turn the unit on by pushing the switch from position "O" to position "I". The symbols used on the switch actuator are international "On & Off" symbols. "O" is the symbol for "OFF" and "I" is the symbol for "ON".



Familiarize yourself with the accessories included with the vac. Each accessory may be used in various ways for vacuuming and blowing debris. Here is a list of the accessories and their uses.

## ▲ WARNING

**Utility Nozzle** - General purpose nozzle for most vacuuming applications.  
**Wet Nozzle** - Used for wet pickup on smooth surfaces to pick up liquid and dry the surface in one stroke.  
**Car Nozzle** - Dry pickup nozzle for car interiors and most upholstery cleaning.  
**Extension Wands** - These wands can be connected together and provides additional length for more reach.  
**Hose** - Provides transfer of vacuum or blowing capability to work site. Provides the means of attaching extension wands and nozzles.

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not run vac unattended.

## Vacuuming Dry Materials

1. The filter must always be in correct position to reduce the risk of leaks and possible damage to vac.
2. Your Wet/Dry Vac comes with the VF5000 Fine Dust Filter installed.

When using your vac to pick up very fine dust, it will be necessary for you to empty the drum and clean the filter at more frequent intervals to maintain peak vac performance.

**NOTE:** A dry filter is necessary to pick up dry material. If you use your vac to pick up dust when the filter is wet, the filter will clog quickly and be very difficult to clean.

3. If your filter is wet but you need to use the vac to pick up dry material, you can quickly dry the filter by running the vac without hose attached for about 10 minutes. The clean air rushing through the vac will help dry the filter.

## Vacuuming Liquids

1. When picking up small amounts of liquid the filter may be left in place.
2. When picking up large amounts of liquid we recommend that the filter be removed. If the filter is not removed, it will become saturated and misting may appear in the exhaust.
3. When the liquid in the drum reaches a predetermined level, the float mechanism will rise automatically to cut off air-flow. When this happens, turn off the vac, unplug the power cord, and empty the drum. You will know that the float has risen because vac airflow ceases and the motor noise will become higher in pitch, due to increased motor speed.
4. After using the vac to pick up liquids, the filter must be dried to reduce the risk of possible mildew and damage to the filter.

## Emptying the Drum

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of injury from accidental starting, unplug power cord before emptying the drum.

1. The vac comes equipped with a drain for easy emptying of liquids. Simply unscrew the drain cap and lift the opposite side slightly to empty the drum.
2. Another option is to remove the powerhead assembly.
3. Lay powerhead assembly aside on a clean area while emptying drum.
4. Dump the drum contents into the proper waste disposal container.

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of back injury or falls, do not lift a vac heavy with liquid or debris. Scoop or drain enough contents out to make the vac light enough to lift comfortably.

## Moving the Wet/Dry Vac

Should it become necessary to pick the vac up to move it, the handle on the sides of the dust drum are used to lift. To maneuver the vac, the push/pull handle on the powerhead of the unit should be used.

## Blowing Feature

Your vac features a blowing port. It can blow sawdust and other debris. Follow the steps below to use your vac as a blower.

**▲ WARNING:** Always wear safety eyewear complying with ANSI Z87.1 (or in Canada, CSA Z94.3) before using as a blower.

**▲ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of injury to bystanders, keep them clear of blowing debris.

**▲ CAUTION:** Wear a dust mask if blowing creates dust which might be inhaled.

**▲ CAUTION:** To reduce the risk of hearing damage wear ear protectors when using the vac/blower for extended hours or when using it in a noisy area.

1. Locate blowing port of your vac.
2. Insert the locking end of the tug-along hose into the blowing port of the vac. The hose should snap into place.