

CLEAN LIVING

1. DIRT DEVIL DDRHH3 RECHARGEABLE HANDHELD

This cleaner is remarkably effective when it comes to pet hair as well as general dirt. It is noisier than the Electrolux, but its motorised Turbo Brush, which fits on to the main body, picks up pet hair like a dream – although longer hair gets wound around the revolving bristles. It has a cyclonic action to avoid suction loss while in use and a dust container that boasts 'Microban' hygiene technology. It also comes with a crevice tool, upholstery brush and an extra filter. Like the Electrolux, though, there's a long initial charge so make sure you plug it in the day before you head off on your caravanning trip.

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £39.99
TYPE: Rechargeable
TEL: 0161 621 6900
WEBSITE: dirtdevil.com

VERY EFFECTIVE



GOT YOUR CARAVAN IN ANOTHER FINE MESS? THEN IT MAY BE TIME TO INVEST IN ONE OF THESE MACHINES. JO VAUGHAN IS YOUR TESTER

2. DYSON DC16 ANIMAL

From one of the biggest names in the market, this handheld looks trendy and has a really fast recharge time. But it doesn't pick up pet hair nearly as well as the two Dirt Devils despite being Dyson's Animal model and costing nearly £130. It does the job eventually if you employ a little patience though, and its cyclone technology means that it has a constant suction throughout its charge. It is slightly bulkier than some of the others but it comes with two extra tools – one for crevices and a combination nozzle for debris that converts to a dusting brush.

TRENDY BUT PRICEY

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £129.99
TYPE: Rechargeable
TEL: 0800 298 0298
WEBSITE: dyson.co.uk

3. DIRT DEVIL DDRHH2 MAINS POWERED HANDHELD CLEANER

Our other Dirt Devil is our only 230V mains powered handheld. Its 900W motor is as noisy as a domestic vacuum cleaner, but it picks up brilliantly – if anything too well, as the suction strength lifts up removable carpets. This handheld has a built-in flexible hose, too, on to which the supplied tools fit. It has a wider brush than the cordless cleaner and the dirt container has a Hepa filter. The 8-metre mains lead is long enough to use throughout the biggest motor caravan, although, of course, you're limited to use where you can hook-up.

GREAT SUCTION

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £29.99
TYPE: 230V mains
TEL: 0161 621 6900
WEBSITE: dirtdevil.com

4. BLACK & DECKER AV1205 DUSTBUSTER AUTOA

This is a basic no-frills cleaner that can be put in the back of the cupboard until needed as it has a 12V lead rather than being a rechargeable model. This does mean, though, that its range is limited – its cable is just 5 metres long. In use, it lacks the smoothness of the Electrolux as it doesn't feature the latter's small wheels, but it does the job reasonably well, only struggling with the dog hair. It has a rugged design and chunky controls, and comes with a couple of extra tools for upholstery and crevice cleaning which live neatly within its base.

NO FRILLS

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £29.99
TYPE: 12V
TEL: 01753 567055
WEBSITE: blackanddecker.co.uk



5. BLACK & DECKER PAV1205 PIVOT AUTO

This 12V cleaner is new to Black & Decker's range. Completely different in design to the Dustbuster, it has a pivoting section that folds the nozzle (with its inbuilt crevice tool) 180 degrees into the main unit. There is also an upholstery brush and flexible hose, and the dirt container can be emptied without getting your hands mucky. Also, it features cyclonic technology. Like the Dustbuster, it has a bright, hardwearing design, as well as a 5-metre cord, but in this case the cord is stored around a spool to keep things tidy. A storage bag is also provided to hold both the main unit and the accessory tools.

HANDY FEATURES

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £49.99
TYPE: 12V
TEL: 01753 567055
WEBSITE: blackanddecker.co.uk



6. ELECTROLUX RAPIDO ZB404 WET AND DRY

A rechargeable handheld vacuum cleaner, the Rapido is light to hold and quiet in use. It also has a number of different accessories, enabling you to reach every corner and crevice. As the name suggests, it can be used on wet surfaces thanks to its rubber squeegee. Small wheels allow it to glide across flat surfaces and the cyclonic action improves its effectiveness. Even some pet hair was removed from the test area. The charging base can be wall mounted or sat upright on a table and it works for approximately 10 minutes on each charge.

VERSATILE

AT A GLANCE
RRP: £29.99
TYPE: Rechargeable
TEL: 0870 572 7727
WEBSITE: electrolux.co.uk

NEXT MONTH: WE TAKE A LOOK AT A SELECTION OF CARAVAN STEPS