Allina Health

How to Use a Suction System at Home

Suction System

Your health care provider has prescribed that you use a suction system at home. A suction system helps to clear fluids from your mouth, nose or windpipe (trachea).
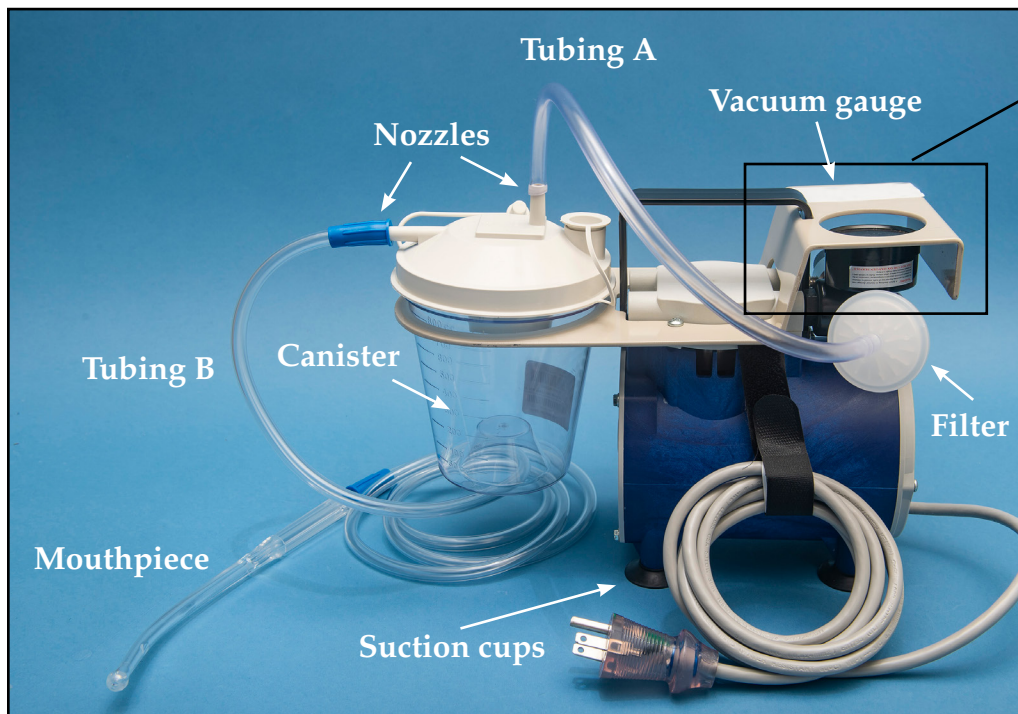
You can rent a suction system from your local home medical supply store.
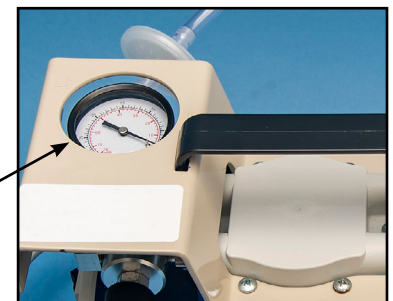
Parts of the System

- tubing (A and B)
- canister
- on/off switch
- vacuum gauge
- filter
- mouthpiece
- vacuum knob
- suction cups
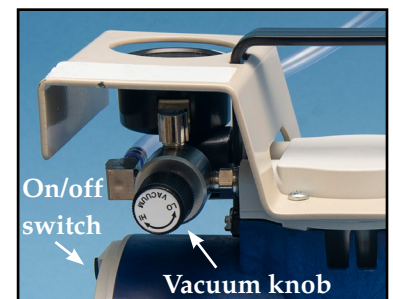
How to Set Up and Use the System

1. Place the system on a table or other flat surface at least 4 inches away from other items. Gently push down on the system to make sure the suction cups hold it in place.

2. Tightly secure the lid on the canister. Connect the end (with the filter) of tubing A to the nozzle under the vacuum gauge and the other end to the nozzle (pointing up) on the top of the canister.

3. Connect one end of tubing B to the other nozzle (pointing out) on the top of the canister and the other end the mouthpiece.

Top view

Side view

Labeled parts of the system

All photos © Allina Health System

(over)

4. Plug the system into an electrical outlet. Turn the system on by using the on/off switch.

5. Use the vacuum knob to adjust the amount of suction prescribed by your health care provider. Adjust for comfort, if needed.

 — To **increase** the amount of suction, turn the vacuum knob to the right (clockwise).

 — To **decrease** the amount of suction, turn the vacuum knob to the left (counterclockwise).

How to Clean the System

- **Filter:** When the filter looks damaged, discolored or clogged, replace it with a new one.

- **Canister:** Use warm, soapy water to wash the canister. Allow to air dry on a clean towel.

- **Tubing:** When the tubing becomes worn, replace it with new tubing.

- **Suction system:** Use a damp cloth to clean the system and power cords. Wipe the machine dry.