RIDGID WD1640

RIDGID WD1640 16-Gallon 5.0-Peak HP Wet Dry Vac Instruction Manual

Model: WD1640 | Brand: RIDGID

1. Important Safety Information

Read and understand all safety warnings and instructions before operating this wet dry vacuum. Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

- Always wear safety glasses and hearing protection when operating the vacuum.
- Do not vacuum toxic, carcinogenic, or other hazardous materials.
- Do not vacuum hot ashes, coals, or flammable/combustible liquids or vapors.
- Ensure the power cord is undamaged and properly grounded.
- Unplug the vacuum from the power outlet before performing any maintenance or cleaning.
- Keep children and unauthorized persons away from the operating area.

2. Package Contents

Verify that all components are present before assembly. If any parts are missing or damaged, contact RIDGID customer service.

- RIDGID WD1640 Wet Dry Vac Unit (Motor Head, Collection Drum)
- Hose (2.1 Meters)
- Extension Wands
- Utility Nozzle
- Wet Nozzle
- Crevice Tool
- Cartridge Filter
- Owner's Manual



Image showing the RIDGID WD1640 16-gallon wet dry vacuum cleaner, including the main orange drum unit with its motor head, a flexible hose, an extension wand, and a cartridge filter. This illustrates the primary components of the product.

3. Assembly and Setup

Follow these steps to assemble your wet dry vacuum:

1. **Attach Casters:** Invert the collection drum. Insert the caster stems into the holes on the bottom of the drum until they click into place.
2. **Install Filter:** For dry vacuuming, ensure the cartridge filter is securely installed over the filter cage on the motor head. For wet vacuuming, remove the cartridge filter.
3. **Secure Motor Head:** Place the motor head onto the collection drum, aligning the latches. Secure the latches on both sides of the drum.
4. **Connect Hose:** Insert the large end of the hose into the vacuum port on the front of the drum. Twist to lock it securely.
5. **Attach Accessories:** Connect extension wands and desired nozzles (utility, wet, crevice) to the free end of the hose as needed for your cleaning task.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Dry Vacuuming

- Ensure the cartridge filter is clean and properly installed.
- Connect the hose and desired dry-use accessory.
- Plug the power cord into a grounded electrical outlet.

- Turn the vacuum ON using the power switch on the motor head.
- Vacuum dry debris.
- When finished, turn the vacuum OFF and unplug it.

4.2 Wet Vacuuming

- **IMPORTANT: Remove the cartridge filter before wet vacuuming.** A foam filter (sold separately) can be used for wet pickup to protect the motor.
- Connect the hose and the wet nozzle accessory.
- Plug the power cord into a grounded electrical outlet.
- Turn the vacuum ON.
- Vacuum liquids. The vacuum will automatically shut off or suction will decrease significantly when the drum is full.
- When finished, turn the vacuum OFF, unplug it, and empty the collection drum.

4.3 Blower Function

- Unplug the hose from the vacuum port.
- Insert the large end of the hose into the blower port located on the back of the motor head. Twist to lock.
- Plug the power cord into a grounded electrical outlet.
- Turn the vacuum ON to use as a blower.
- When finished, turn the vacuum OFF and unplug it.

5. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your vacuum.

5.1 Emptying the Collection Drum

- Unplug the vacuum.
- Release the latches and remove the motor head.
- Carefully lift and empty the drum. For liquids, use the drain port if available.
- Clean the inside of the drum with water and mild detergent if necessary, then dry thoroughly.

5.2 Filter Cleaning and Replacement

- Unplug the vacuum and remove the motor head.
- Remove the cartridge filter from the filter cage.
- Gently tap the filter against a hard surface to dislodge loose dirt. For more thorough cleaning, rinse the filter with water from the clean side, allowing it to dry completely before reinstallation.
- Replace the filter if it is damaged or if suction performance decreases significantly after cleaning.

5.3 Accessory Cleaning

Clean hoses, wands, and nozzles with water and mild detergent as needed. Ensure all parts are dry before storage.

6. Troubleshooting

Refer to this section for common issues and their solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cord unplugged, tripped circuit breaker, faulty switch	Check power connection, reset circuit breaker, contact service if switch is faulty
Low suction	Clogged filter, blocked hose/nozzle, full drum, motor head not sealed	Clean/replace filter, clear blockages, empty drum, ensure motor head latches are secure
Water coming from exhaust	Filter not removed for wet pickup, drum is overfilled	Remove filter for wet pickup, empty drum
Excessive noise	Blocked hose, damaged motor, loose components	Clear blockages, inspect for damage, ensure all parts are secure. Contact service if motor is damaged.

7. Specifications

- **Model:** WD1640
- **Capacity:** 16 Gallons
- **Motor Horsepower:** 5.0 Peak HP
- **Hose Length:** 2.1 Meters
- **Filter Type:** Cartridge
- **Noise Level:** 80 dB
- **Item Weight:** 22.2 pounds
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric
- **Recommended Use:** Outdoor / Shop

8. Warranty and Support

For warranty information, technical support, or to order replacement parts, please refer to the official RIDGID website or contact their customer service department. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

RIDGID products are known for their durability and performance. Should you encounter any issues not covered in this manual, professional assistance is recommended.

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question