

## How to brush-vacuum an object



**You will need:**

- vacuum cleaner with adjustable suction and a HEPA filter
- soft natural-bristle brush or brushes
- piece of nylon netting or tulle
- rubber band

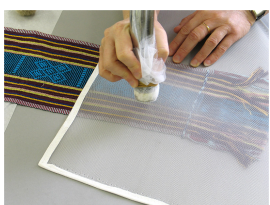


Secure the netting over the vacuum nozzle using the rubber band. This will stop the object or any decorative elements from being sucked inside the vacuum nozzle.



Use the soft natural-bristle brush to brush the dirt, lint or dust towards the suction of the vacuum. Do not place the vacuum nozzle on the surface of the object itself.

You may need to use a clean, smooth-surfaced, heavy weight to help hold a textile in position.



If the object has decorative elements such as beading or fringing, you can use a screen. This will allow you to vacuum the surface without detaching the decorations.

You can make a screen from clean insect screening with cotton tape stitched around the edge to prevent the screen from catching on the object, particularly if it is a textile.



Although particularly suited to textiles, brush vacuuming can be carried out on many objects using the same basic techniques.



Small attachments (designed to clean computer keyboards) can be bought for many vacuum cleaners.

**Is it dirt or data?**

Dust is abrasive, traps moisture and harbours insects, causing damage to objects. Mould spores and dust mites are also harmful to humans. However, removing dust and residues from objects should be carefully considered as they may provide clues about where and how an object was made, even who used it. Before you clean an object, ask yourself if the dirt is actually an important part of the item's story.