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Dyson Ball Animal 3 Vacuum Cleaner Review

DYSON'S UPRIGHT VACUUM IS GOOD, BUT NOT PERFECT

Written by [Jonathan Chan](#), senior manager of lab operations with a decade of experience testing products.

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Dyson vacuums are known for their clever engineering and sleek design. The **Dyson Animal 3** (available at Amazon for **\$299.99**) is a shining example. It's an upright vacuum that delivers powerful cleaning in an elegant package. However, it's not without its faults. We imagine that Dyson has a specific type of home in mind for the Animal 3—one with open-room concepts and not a lot of clutter. It's good at maneuvering around corners, but that iconic ball joint has trouble getting underneath furniture. Also, lifting this unit up a set of stairs is a pain. For a vacuum that's much more suited for under, around, and over, we'd suggest checking out the **Shark Vertex**.

[\\$299.99 from Amazon](#)[\\$399.99 from Target](#)

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[About the Dyson Animal 3](#)

About the Dyson Animal 3

- **Weight:** 17 pounds
- **Cord Length** ~33'
- **Included Attachments:** Stair tool, combination tool
- **Warranty:** 1-year warranty

The Dyson Animal 3 is an upright vacuum cleaner that has a motorbar cleaning brush head made from nylon and carbon fiber bristles. It utilizes radial root cyclone technology for lossless suction.

What we like about the Dyson Animal 3

Superior cleaning



Our testing shows near lossless suction from one edge of the brush head to the other.

When we **test vacuums**, we use a mixture of sand or uncooked rice on various surfaces. The Animal 3 suctioned up about 75 percent of the dirt and debris we laid out for it in a single pass. Most people go over their carpets and hardwood three or four times over the course of cleaning, so you can count on the Animal 3 to leave your floors pretty much spotless.

It also absolutely aced our pet hair test. When we put out half a dozen clumps of dog hair, the Animal 3 gobbled them up with no clogs or noticeable hair wrap.

Finally, we really liked the edge-to-edge suction on the brush head. You can expect this upright to clean right up to the wall when you're flush from the side of the vacuum. Our testing did show about a quarter inch gap from the front, but that can be easily remedied by our next point.

Good handling on the floor



The ball joint lets you easily take corners.

The Animal 3 uses a ball joint to help navigate around obstacles. We found it to be quite nimble. It takes corners with ease. Its powerful motor helps it propel forward without much effort. And its automatically adjusting suction means you don't have to spend time adjusting when transitioning from carpet to hardwood or vice versa.

What we didn't like about the Dyson Animal 3

Lack of attachments



The baseline Dyson Animal 3 comes with only two attachments.

We tested the baseline Dyson Animal 3. It comes with two attachments: a stair tool and a combination dusting wand. If you wanted all the attachments the Animal 3 is compatible with, it'll cost you an additional \$150 at the time of testing. That's a lot. It's nearly \$20 more per extra attachment for the **Dyson Animal 3 Complete**, which is steep.

It's not great at getting under furniture or up the stairs

Transporting the Dyson Animal 3 vacuum cleaner



The Animal 3 isn't very nimble, so it may struggle to maneuver under tight spaces.

Dyson uprights have a pretty recognizable ball joint. Standing at over eight inches tall, it's very prominent—and that's kind of the problem. Think about most of the furniture in your house. Yes, the Animal 3 will be able to fit under most of them, but we're sure there are a few spots it won't be able to reach.

Then there's the matter of going up a set of stairs. The Animal 3 tips the scales at around 17 pounds and there's no handle on the back to help you lift it. Dyson recommends you grab the handle of the dust bin, but that doesn't feel the most secure. If you're cleaning your stairs and multiple levels regularly, this might not be the right vacuum for you. We'd recommend the **Oreck Elevate** which is super light or the **Kenmore Lift-Up** instead for stairs.

What owners are saying

Out of about 1,800 reviews on Amazon, the Dyson Animal 3 scores a 4.3 stars out of five. Owners love the powerful suction and the way the stair tool deals with pet hair. However, multiple people reported that the suction was sometimes too powerful and caused the vacuum to get stuck on carpet.

We experienced some difficulties with pushing the Animal 3 on high-pile carpets, but it never got completely stuck. If it does get stuck on your carpet, you can lower the suction level by pushing the slider located on the brush head to the left.

Should you buy the Dyson Animal 3?

Yes, if you like Dyson's style

The Dyson Animal 3 is an upright vacuum that brings tons of cleaning power. During testing it showed it could handle everything from fine dust to clumps of dog hair. It's best suited for homes with fairly open floor plans. The Animal's ball joint allows it to easily glide around corners and get flush with the wall, but it's not great at going under furniture. If you like the Dyson style but have a ton of furniture, we'd suggest checking out the company's cordless vacuums, like the **Dyson Gen5Detect**.



Dyson Ball Animal 3

\$399.00

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Meet the tester



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Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it's likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company's efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he's a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he's plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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