

# BLACK+ DECKER

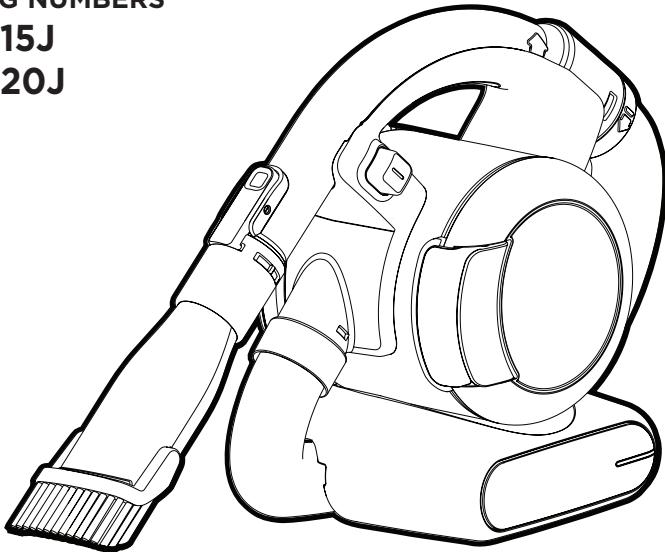
**FLEX™ VAC**

## INSTRUCTION MANUAL

### CATALOG NUMBERS

**HFVB315J**

**HFVB320J**



**PLEASE READ BEFORE RETURNING THIS  
PRODUCT FOR ANY REASON.**

**SAVE THIS MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

## SAFETY GUIDELINES - DEFINITIONS

It is important for you to read and understand this manual.

The information it contains relates to protecting YOUR SAFETY and PREVENTING PROBLEMS. The symbols below are used to help you recognize this information.

**⚠ DANGER:** Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

**⚠ WARNING:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

**⚠ CAUTION:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

**NOTICE:** Used without the safety alert symbol indicates potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in property damage.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

When using an electrical appliances, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:

### READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THIS APPLIANCE.

**⚠ WARNING: Read all safety warnings and all instructions.** Failure to follow the warnings and instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.

**⚠ WARNING:** This product contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. **WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING.**

**⚠ WARNING:** Some household dust contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm such as asbestos and lead in lead based paint.

**⚠ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock or injury:

- **⚠ WARNING:** To reduce the risk of electric shock – Do not use outdoors or on wet surfaces.
- Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children.
- Use only as described in this manual. Use only manufacturer's recommended attachments.
- Do not use with damaged cord or plug. If appliance is not working as it should, has been dropped, damaged, left outdoors, or dropped into water, return it to a service center.
- Do not pull or carry by cord, use cord as a handle, close a door on cord, or pull cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not run appliance over cord. Keep cord away from heated surfaces.
- Do not unplug by pulling on cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
- Do not handle charger, including charger plug, and charger terminals with wet hands.
- Do not put any object into openings. Do not use with any opening blocked; keep free of dust, lint, hair, and anything that may reduce air flow.
- Keep hair, loose clothing, fingers, and all parts of body away from openings and moving parts.
- Use extra care when cleaning on stairs.
- Do not use to pick up flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, or use in areas where they may be present.
- Do not pick up anything that is burning or smoking, such as cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes.
- Do not use without dust bag and/or filters in place.
- Do not charge the unit outdoors.
- Use only the charger supplied by the manufacturer to recharge.
- Do not incinerate the appliance even if it is severely damaged. The batteries can explode in a fire.
- This appliance is intended for household use only and not for commercial or industrial use.
- Shock Hazard. To protect against risk of electrical shock, do not put unit or charging base in water or other liquid.
- Do not allow the cord to hang over the edge of a table or counter or touch hot surfaces. The unit should be placed or mounted away from sinks and hot surfaces.
- Plug the charger directly into an electrical outlet.
- Use the charger only in a standard electrical outlet (120V/60Hz).
- Unplug the charger from outlet before any routine cleaning or maintenance.
- This product includes rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. Do not incinerate batteries as they will explode at high temperatures.
- Do not look into the air vents when the

unit is switched on, as sometimes there is a possibility of small debris being discharged from the air vents, especially after cleaning / replacement of the filters as debris inside the unit can be disturbed.

## ADDITIONAL SAFETY WARNINGS

**a) Prevent unintentional starting. Ensure the switch is in the off-position before connecting to battery pack, picking up or carrying the appliance.** Carrying the appliance with your finger on the switch or energizing appliance that have the switch on invites accidents.

**b) Recharge only with the charger specified by the manufacturer.** A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another battery pack.

**c) Under abusive conditions, liquid may be ejected from the battery; avoid contact.** If contact accidentally occurs, flush with water. If liquid contacts eyes, additionally seek medical help. Liquid ejected from the battery may cause irritation or burns.

**d) Do not use a battery pack or appliance that is damaged or modified.** Damaged or modified batteries may exhibit unpredictable behavior resulting in fire, explosion or risk of injury.

**e) Do not expose a battery pack or appliance to fire or excessive temperature.** Exposure to fire or temperature above 266°F (130°C) may cause explosion.

**f) Have servicing performed by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts.** This will ensure that the safety of the product is maintained.

**⚠ WARNING:** Do not attempt to modify or repair the appliance

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

### Symbols

- The label on your tool may include the following symbols. The symbols and their definitions are as follows:

V.....volts

A.....amperes

Hz.....hertz

W.....watts

min.....minutes

~ or AC.....alternating current

— or DC ..direct current

n<sub>o</sub>.....no load speed

⊕ .....Class I Construction (grounded)

⊕ .....earthing terminal

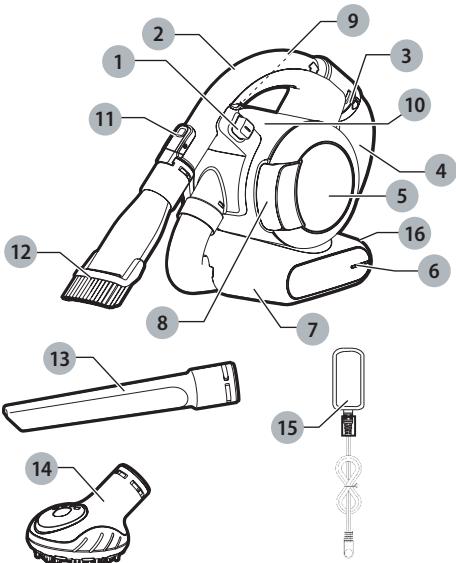
⚠ .....safety alert symbol

□ .....Class II Construction (double insulated)

.../min or rpm...revolutions or reciprocation per minute

## FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

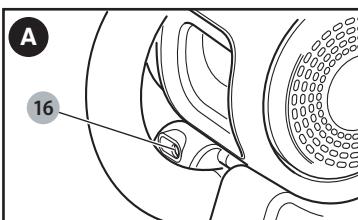
1. On/off power switch
2. Removable handle
3. Locking ring
4. Hose
5. Dust container door
6. LED charging indicator
7. Battery housing
8. Door latch
9. Bowl release button
10. Removable bowl
11. Accessory clip
12. 2-in-1 nozzle accessory
13. Crevice tool
14. Pet hair tool
15. Charger
16. Charging port



## Charging the battery

**⚠ WARNING:** For use only with the supplied charger. From new, the rechargeable cells of the product need a minimum charge time of 13 hours to ensure full power.

- Plug the jack plug of the charger into the charging port (16) of the tool as shown in **Figure A**. Plug the charger into any standard 120 Volt 60 Hz electrical outlet. The charging indicator will be lit.



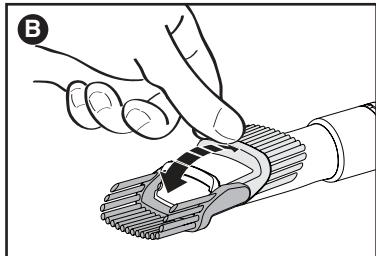
While charging, the charger may get warm, this is perfectly normal and safe. It is safe to leave the appliance connected to the charger indefinitely. The charger automatically reduces power consumption when charging is complete.

**⚠ WARNING:** Do not charge the battery at ambient temperatures below 39°F (4°C) or above 104°F (40°C).

## ASSEMBLY

### MOUNTING ACCESSORIES (FIGURES B - D)

The 2-in-1 nozzle / brush tool (12) has a brush that can be folded forward for dusting and upholstery cleaning.

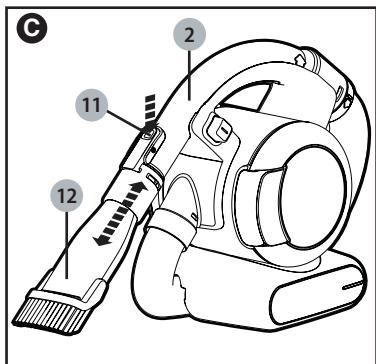


The pet hair cleaning tool (14) is for use when vacuuming pet hair and/or ground-in debris from carpeted or upholstery surfaces.

**⚠ WARNING: Injury to pets.**  
**Do not use pet hair cleaning tool directly on animals.**

The crevice tool (13) allows for vacuuming in narrow and hard to-reach places.

- To attach an accessory, press the accessory clip (11) and slide the accessory onto the handle (2).
- To remove an accessory, press the accessory clip (11) and remove the accessory.



**To unwrap and extend the handle and hose:**  
The handle and hose can be unwrapped from the main appliance for extended reach when cleaning. Grab the handle and lift upwards. Unwrap the handle and hose from

the main appliance. The hose can extend up to approximately 4 feet (1.21m).

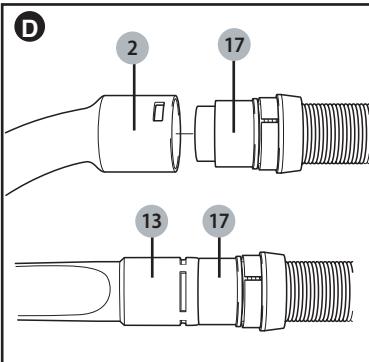
To place the handle and hose back onto the main appliance, wrap the hose back underneath and around the vac making sure that the hose fits between the two "feet" of the appliance. Align the handle with its cradle and click back into place. The handle (2) can be removed from the hose allowing the accessories to be connected directly to the hose cuff (17) when desired.

### To remove the handle:

- Unclip the handle (2) from the appliance.
- Rotate the locking ring (3) counterclockwise to release the clips.
- Pull the hose away from the handle.
- Fit the accessory directly to the hose cuff (17).

### To refit the handle:

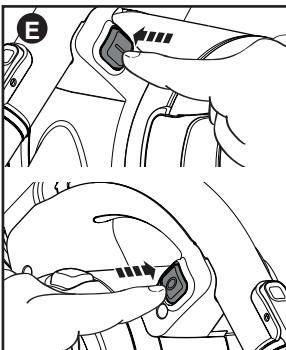
- Remove the accessory from the hose.
- Push the hose into the handle (2). Rotate locking ring (3) clockwise until it clicks into place.



## OPERATION

### SWITCHING ON AND OFF (FIGURE E)

- To switch the appliance on, slide the on/off switch (1) to the right until it clicks into the on position.
- To switch the appliance off, slide the on/off switch to the left until it clicks into the off position.



## VACUUMING

- When operating the appliance, make sure the hose is not trapped, twisted or blocked.
- Two hose positions while vacuuming:
  - You can vacuum with the handle (2) and hose (4) wrapped around the main appliance. Cleaning in this mode is great for quick pick-ups because the vac is in its most compact form.
  - You can vacuum with the handle (2) and hose (4) unwrapped from the main appliance allowing you to reach up to approximately 4 feet (1.2 m) from the appliance.
  - With handle and hose unwrapped the appliance can be carried using the built-in handle on the main appliance.
  - The handle can also be removed from the hose so that you can connect an accessory directly to the hose cuff (17) when desired.

## HINTS FOR OPTIMUM USE

- When vacuuming stairs, always start at the bottom and work your way up.
- Use the pet hair cleaning tool to agitate and suction up pet hair and ground-in debris from carpeted or upholstery surfaces.
- In order to keep the suction force optimized, the filters must be cleared regularly during use.

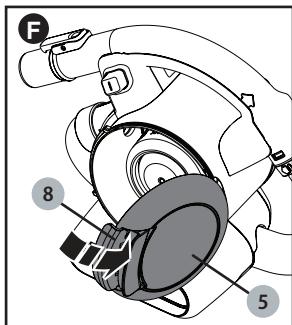
## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

**WARNING:** Do not, under any circumstances, immerse the appliance in water. A damp cloth and soapy water should be used to clean the exterior of the appliance. Always make sure the appliance is completely dry before reuse or storage.

### EMPTYING THE DUST CONTAINER (FIGURE F)

The dust container must be emptied regularly, preferably after every use.

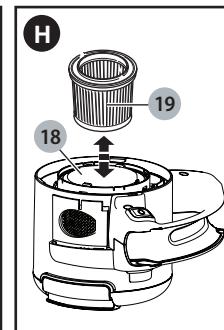
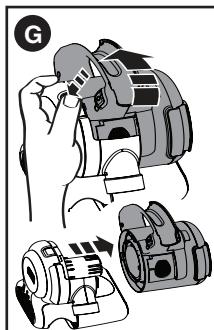
- Pull the door latch (8) and open the dust container door (5).
- Tilt appliance to empty dirt.
- Tap the back end of appliance if debris does not fall out easily or remove filters for better access.



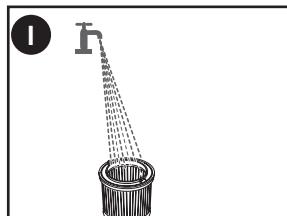
### CLEANING FILTERS (FIGURES G - I)

Both the plastic pre-filter (18) and the pleated filter (19) are re-usable and should be cleaned regularly.

- Unwrap the hose (4) and handle (2) from the main part of the appliance.
- Pull the door latch (8) and open the dust container door (5) and empty contents into a waste basket.
- Push and hold the release button on the opposite side of the handle from the dust container door (5).
- Rotate the handle toward the back of the appliance **as shown in figure G**.
- Pull the dust container to the side, away from the base of the appliance.
- Remove the pleated filter from the pre-filter by pulling firmly **as shown in figure H**.
- Tap the filters vigorously to remove loose dust.



- If necessary, wash the filters (18, 19) in warm, soapy water **as shown in figure I**.
- Make sure that the filter is dry before refitting it to the appliance.
- Refit the pleated filter into the plastic pre-filter.

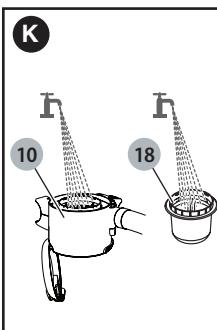
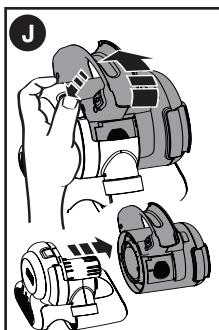


### TO REPLACE THE DUST CONTAINER

- Slide the container back onto the base and rotate the handle toward the front of the appliance until an audible click is heard. Ensure that the container is fully fastened back onto the base.
- Close the container door and make sure it clicks into place.

## CLEANING THE DUST CONTAINER (FIGURE J - K)

- Unwrap the hose (4) and handle (2) from the main part of the appliance.
- Push and hold the release button on the opposite side of the handle from the dust container door (5).
- Rotate the handle toward the back of the appliance **as shown in figure J**.
- Pull the dust container to the side, away from the base of the appliance.
- Remove the pre-filter (18) and filter (19) from the appliance by twisting the filter to the right and pulling it from the appliance.
- Once filters are removed, wipe the removable bowl (10) and pre-filter with a damp cloth, or rinse with warm soapy water and allow to dry **as shown in figure K**.



## TO REPLACE THE DUST CONTAINER

- Slide the container back onto the base and rotate the handle toward the front of the appliance until an audible click is heard. Ensure that the container is fully fastened back onto the base.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If the product does not work, check the following:

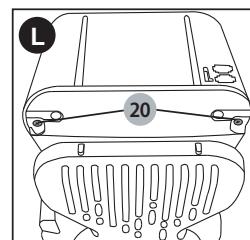
- The charger was correctly plugged in for recharge.
- The charger cord is not damaged and is correctly attached to the charging base.
- The charger is plugged into a working electrical outlet.
- The appliance was switched to the "off" position to charge. The battery will not be charged with the switch in the "on" position.
- One of the filters may be clogged. Pull the door latch and open the dust container door. Remove the pre-filter and the pleated filter. Brush any loose dust off the filters and wash them in warm, soapy water. Make sure the filters are dry before placing back in the vacuum.

## BATTERY REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL

This product uses Lithium Ion rechargeable and recyclable batteries. When the batteries no longer hold a charge, they should be removed from the Vac and recycled. They must not be incinerated or composted. The batteries can be taken for disposal to a BLACK+DECKER, Company-Owned or Authorized Service Center. Some local retailers are also participating in a national recycling program (see "RBRC™ Seal"). Call your local retailer for details. If you bring the batteries to a BLACK+DECKER Company-Owned or Authorized Service Center, the Center will arrange to recycle old batteries. Or, contact your local municipality for proper disposal instructions in your city/town.

## TO REMOVE THE BATTERY PACK FOR DISPOSAL:

- 1.) Before attempting to disassemble the product, turn it on and leave it on until the motor completely stops, ensuring a complete discharge of the battery.
- 2.) Remove the removable bowl (10) as described in the "CLEANING THE DUST CONTAINER" section.
- 3.) Invert the appliance to gain access to the screws that attach the base.
- 4.) Remove the two screws (20) shown in **(figure L)** and lift off the battery housing.
- 5.) Detach all lead connections from the battery pack.
- 6.) Remove battery pack and place in suitable packaging to prevent a short circuit of the battery terminals.
- 7.) Recycle of batteries as per recommended guidelines.



## MAINTENANCE

Use only mild soap and damp cloth to clean the vac. Never let any liquid get inside the vac; never immerse the battery/motor housing in liquid.

**⚠ WARNING:** Make sure the vacuum is completely dry before using it. **IMPORTANT:** To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustment (other than those listed in this manual) should be performed by

authorized service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using identical replacement parts.

## **THE RBRC™ SEAL**

The RBRC™ (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation) Seal on the LI-ION battery (or battery pack) indicates that the costs to recycle the battery (or battery pack) at the end of its useful life have already been paid by BLACK+DECKER. RBRC™ in cooperation with BLACK+DECKER and other battery users, has established programs in the United States to facilitate the collection of spent LI-ION batteries. Help protect our environment and conserve natural resources by returning the spent LI-ION battery to an authorized BLACK+DECKER service center or to your local retailer for recycling. You may also contact your local recycling center for information on where to drop off the spent battery. RBRC™ is a registered trademark of the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation.