CLAIMS

1. A cleaner head for a vacuum cleaner, the cleaner head comprising:

a suction cavity comprising an opening through which debris enters the cleaner head, and an air outlet; and

an agitator mounted in the suction cavity in a cantilevered manner for rotation relative thereto, the agitator being conical in shape and having a first, free end and a second end which has a larger diameter than the first end;

wherein the air outlet is located adjacent the free end of the agitator.

2. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air outlet is located rearwardly of the agitator.

3. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the air outlet is positioned so that, in a direction extending along the longitudinal axis of the agitator, the air outlet is spaced from the free end of the agitator.

4. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spacing of the air outlet from the agitator along said direction is less than 10mm.

5. A cleaner head as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a neck which is connectable to a vacuum cleaner, and wherein the neck comprises an outlet of the cleaner head.

6. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cleaner head defines an airflow path extending downstream of the suction cavity from the air outlet towards the outlet of the cleaner head.

7. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 6, wherein the airflow path is defined, at least in part, by a duct for conveying air from the air outlet to an air inlet port formed in the neck.

8. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction cavity is defined by a housing of the cleaner head, and wherein the duct extends from the air outlet to the neck externally of the housing.

9. A cleaner head according to claim 8, wherein the housing is substantially conical in shape.

10. A cleaner head as claimed in any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the duct is curved.

11. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 10, wherein the duct curves through 90° between the air outlet and the air inlet port.

12. A cleaner head as claimed in any of claims 7 to 11, wherein the duct is integral with at least part of the neck.

13. A cleaner head as claimed in any of claims 7 to 12, wherein the duct is integral with at least part of the housing.

14. A cleaner head as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the suction cavity comprises an additional air outlet, and the cleaner head defines an additional airflow path extending downstream of the suction cavity from the additional air outlet towards an outlet of the cleaner head.

15. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 14, wherein the additional air outlet is located rearwardly of the agitator.

16. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the additional air outlet is located midway between the free end and the second end of the agitator.

17. A cleaner head as claim in any of claims 14 to 16, wherein the air outlet and the additional air outlet are aligned in a direction extending parallel to the longitudinal axis of the agitator.

18. A cleaner head as claimed in any of claims 14 to 17 when dependent from claim 6, wherein the airflow path extending from the air outlet intersects the airflow path upstream of the outlet of the cleaner head.

19. A cleaner head as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a drive for driving rotation of the agitator, and wherein the agitator is connected to the drive at or towards the second end of the agitator.

20. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 19, wherein the drive comprises a motor located externally of the agitator, and a belt connecting the agitator to the motor.

21. A cleaner head as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the agitator comprises a conical core having upstanding helical ridges, and a row of bristles located between the helical ridges.