

CLAIMS

1. A cleaner head for a cleaning appliance, the cleaner head comprising:
a housing defining a suction chamber; and
5 a sole plate defining a downwardly-directed opening through which dirt can enter the suction chamber;
wherein the cleaner head further comprises a hollow deformable seal extending from a rear portion of the housing, the hollow deformable seal having a width at least equal to a width of the opening in the sole plate, and having a lower
10 sealing surface that extends in a downward and rearward direction from a rear edge of the housing such that, in use, the hollow deformable seal is biased against and conforms to a surface being cleaned in order to maintain a seal between the cleaner head and the surface being cleaned.
- 15 2. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hollow deformable seal extends across the full width of the cleaner head.
3. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the hollow deformable seal together with a portion of the housing defines a cavity within the hollow
20 deformable seal.
4. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow deformable seal is formed of a resilient material.
- 25 5. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a perimeter edge of the seal is mounted to the housing.
6. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least part of the perimeter edge of the seal is not fixed to the housing, such that air is able to enter into
30 and escape from the hollow seal.
7. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein in an unbiased position the lower sealing surface lies at an angle of between 10° and 45° from a plane defined by the sole plate.

8. A cleaner head as claimed in claim 7, wherein in an unbiased position the lower sealing surface lies at an angle of between 20° and 35° from a plane defined by the sole plate.
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9. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow deformable seal extends partially around a side portion of the suction opening.
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10. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when in use on a floor surface, the lower sealing surface is deformed upwards by the floor surface, and the hollow deformable seal is compressed such that the volume of a cavity within the hollow deformable seal is reduced.
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11. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow deformable seal comprises an angled surface extending from the rear edge of the lower sealing surface, the angled surface being angled upwards and rearwards.
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12. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow deformable seal is formed of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).
13. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a front edge of the opening of the sole plate comprises at least one roller.
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14. A cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the suction chamber houses a brush bar.
15. A vacuum cleaner comprising a cleaner head as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.
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