

ABSTRACTVACUUM CLEANER

A vacuum cleaner comprising a dirty air inlet (12,14) communicating with a clean air outlet by means of an airflow path has a cyclone (18) arranged in the airflow path. In use, air flowing along the airflow path from the dirty air inlet (12,14) to the clean air outlet passes through the cyclone (18). At least one bleed valve (20) is arranged in the wall of the airflow path upstream of the cyclone (18). Preferably, three bleed valves (20) are located in the wall of the airflow path and, more preferably, the bleed valves (20) are substantially identical to one another. Control means (94,102) may be provided for controlling the amount of air bled through the bleed valve (76) when a single bleed valve is provided.

(Figure 2)

