

Title (en)  
Automatic discharge assembly for a vacuum cleaner

Title (de)  
Automatische Auslasseinheit für Staubsauger

Title (fr)  
Système de vidange pour aspirateur

Publication  
**EP 1190661 A2 20020327 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 01402043 A 20010727**

Priority  
US 66657400 A 20000921

Abstract (en)  
An automatic discharge assembly (32) for use with vacuum cleaner (10) is disclosed. The vacuum cleaner (10) has a tank (12) defining an interior having an inlet (24) for receiving liquid material and an outlet (30) for discharging liquid materials, and a vacuum source (16,18) for selectively generating a partial vacuum in the tank interior. The automatic discharge assembly (32) comprises a valve housing (42) defining a liquid discharge path having an inlet (44) adapted for fluid communication with the tank outlet (30) and an outlet (46) for directing liquid material discharge. A pressure-responsive flapper valve (50) is pivotably connected to the valve housing (42), the flapper valve (50) being moveable between a closed position, in which the flapper valve (50) obstructs the liquid discharge path (49), and an open position, in which the flapper valve (50) allows fluid flow through the liquid discharge path (49). The flapper valve (50) moves to the closed position when vacuum is present in the tank interior, and to the open position under a mass force of the liquid material inside the tank (12) when a pressure in the tank interior is substantially the same as an atmospheric pressure outside the tank (12). <IMAGE>

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