



## **Sharkys Vac-n-Sew**

700 N. Main St, Wildwood FL

352-330-BITE (2483)

Monday-Friday 9 to 5 & Saturday 9 to 2

## **Good Belt, Bad Belt?**

I have been in the sewing machine and vacuum cleaner business for 50+ years and lots and lots of people ask me about when I should change my belt on my vacuum cleaner. Well there is an old adage that says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it ". While that may hold true for a lot of things, it surely doesn't for a vacuum cleaner!

If you have bought a vacuum made overseas or from a big box place, or even the internet you need to realize that vacuum cleaner has gone through a lot before it gets into your hands. A Vacuum is made on the assembly line and placed in a carton or box. Then it is stored in a hot warehouse until it is sold, which may be months. Then it is loaded onto a hot tractor-trailer and carried across country in extreme temperatures where it is unloaded into a backroom or deep discount warehouse until it is sold. After all this time and heat, the belt is "melted" onto the motor shaft and brush roller and has stretched to that shape and size. Well, to say the least, you should change your belt as soon as you get it home and use it for the very first time.

Then there are those people that say, "Well my belt ain't broke but my vacuum cleaner is hard to push". If you turn the vacuum cleaner upside down and turn it on and the brush roller turns but then when it is put on the carpet it stops then your belt is stretched. It is the brush rollers job to turn so it can pick-up debris and open the carpet fibers to allow the suction of the vacuum cleaner to suck up the dirt. So, while it ain't broke it sure does need replacing.

And lastly, be sure to purchase an extra belt so you can have a spare in case it's the weekend and you have company coming over and the belt breaks. Who wants dirty carpet awaiting the guests! Murphy's Law of vacuum cleaners is.... Guess what?? Yep. No Belt to be found. And be sure to put the extra belt around the handle of the vacuum cleaner so the "Drawer Monster" doesn't eat it! That's my story and I'm sticking to it. Until next week, it's a dirty job!

***Thanks for reading!***

***AI***