

# User Guide to Your Child's Home Suction Unit

# Introduction

Children with tracheostomies need help clearing the normal secretions from their lungs when they are well, and the increased secretions when they are unwell. Some children without tracheostomies need oral or nasal suctioning – they may struggle to clear their secretions or may have a limited cough. A powered suction unit makes this much easier.

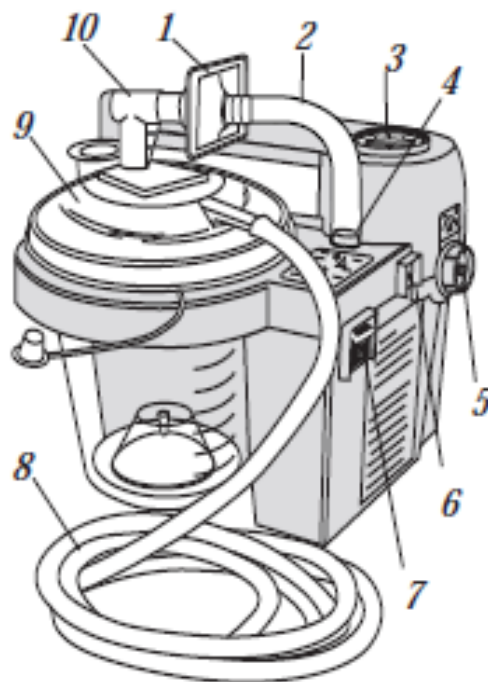
The tracheostomy guide and your health team will teach you about how to suction a tracheostomy safely.

This guide focuses on how to use a portable powered suction. While most suction devices are fairly similar, your child may have a different one than shown here.

## Suction unit at a glance

**Common elements (numbered in the image below):**

- AC power supply connection – (6)
- Power switch – (7)
- A gauge to show suction pressure and the dial to adjust it – (3) and (5)
- Chamber to collect secretions – (9)
- Connection between chamber and device – may be internal, shown as (1), (2), (10)
- Suction tubing – connects chamber with suction catheter – (8)
- Internal battery (not shown)



# Setting up and suctioning

Place the suction on a stable surface, connect AC power (or run from battery)

Check the chamber is properly in place and connected to the suction

Check the suction tubing is connected correctly

Turn on the device (power button).

Check the suction is right for your child by looking at the suction gauge while suctioning (off child) and blocking the end of the suction tube. Typically you will have been recommended 80-120mmHg.

Connect a suction catheter to the end of tubing and control suction at the tip using your thumb on the port.

## Battery power:

The unit (shown in image) has coloured LEDs:

- Green means it is running on external (e.g. AC power).
- Yellow means battery charging. This will go out when fully charged.
- Red means low battery warning – seek alternative power or manual suction.

## Cleaning and maintenance

After each use:

- Rinse tubing by suctioning water.

Weekly and as required:

- Wipe down the outside of the suction unit.
- Wash the collection chamber with hot soapy water.
- Allow to drain and dry.