Robot vacuum talk: *clean mornings* win, mess and dead warranties worry

> We read 502 voices from robot vacuum threads and reviews and sorted 105 into themes: 22 are about keeping up with pet hair and 15 about waking up to clean floors. The fears are mess and money: 11 voices are about a robot spreading a pet's mess and 8 about one dying just after its warranty. Post the shedding-season test and the warranty answer, in their words.

Robot vacuums
a category

502 voices read
Reddit 13 Apr 2026 to 26 Oct 2026
Amazon reviews 6 Mar 2018 to 24 Oct 2026

105 of the 502 in a theme
sorted by a model, counted exactly

October 27, 2026
public posts only; no usernames

THE SHORT VERSION

Pet hair and clean mornings win them over; mess, the cloud and the warranty worry them

502

voices read: Reddit threads and comments, Amazon reviews

public posts; a category, not a brand

22

voices are about keeping up with pet hair

a theme, sorted by a model

18

voices are about control that stays off the cloud

7 of them in one Home Assistant thread

8

voices are about a robot dying just after its warranty

Reddit and Amazon

01 **Pet hair and clean mornings are what they praise**

22 voices are about keeping up with shedding pets and 15 about waking up to clean floors; the model read 22 and 15 of them as positive.

02 **The cloud is a worry, much of it in one thread**

18 voices are about running a robot locally, off the cloud, or about a brand dropping support; 7 of them sit in one Home Assistant thread.

03 **Mess and money are the fears**

11 voices are about a robot spreading a pet's mess and 8 about one failing just outside its warranty.

Counts are of the 502 voices we read (Reddit, Amazon reviews), not of everyone. Themes are a model's sorting; the counts of that sorting are exact.

WHERE WE LISTENED

Where they talk: 224 voices in r/RobotVacuums, 52 Amazon reviews

A category report: we searched Reddit for “robot vacuum” and “best robot vacuum” over the past year and read Amazon reviews of the category's top-rated listings.

REDDIT · LAST 12 MONTHS

450 voices in 24 threads

SUBREDDIT	THREADS	VOICES
r/RobotVacuums	11	224
r/BuyItForLife	6	111
r/CleaningTips	2	42
r/homeassistant	1	21
r/HomeKit	1	20
r/recsmatter	1	17
r/MOVA_robotvacuum	1	10
r/IndianTechCentral	1	5

Searched: “robot vacuum”, “best robot vacuum”.

AMAZON REVIEWS

52 reviews of 3 products

iRobot Roomba 105 Vac Robot Vacuum - Easy to…
4.1★ · 33,217 ratings · 61% five-star · read 18

Shark AV2501S AI Ultra Robot Vacuum, with…
4★ · 31,273 ratings · 61% five-star · read 16

roborock Q7 M5+ Robot Vacuum and Mop, Up to…
4★ · 25,509 ratings · 61% five-star · read 18

The Amazon pass reads critical reviews on purpose: 21 of the reviews we read are three-star, while Amazon's own split on the Roomba listing is 61% five-star.

Reddit: up to 30 threads, Reddit's relevance order, each with up to 20 of its top comments. Amazon: per product, the up to 10 most helpful reviews, then up to 10 most helpful critical (1-3 star) ones; the star split beside each product is Amazon's own, over all its ratings.

WHAT THEY KEEP SAYING

Pet hair (22) and cloud control (18) come up most

Each bar is the number of voices a model put in that theme; a voice counts once. Read the bars as what comes up, not as how many owners feel it.

VOICES PER THEME, OF 502 READ

THEMES SORTED BY A MODEL (GEMINI) · COUNTS EXACT

keeps up with endless pet hair	PRAISE	22 · 4%	Reddit 20 · Amazon reviews 2
want local control without cloud apps	WANT	18 · 4%	Reddit 17 · Amazon reviews 1
buy from Costco for the return policy	HABIT	15 · 3%	Reddit 15
waking up to clean floors is lifechanging	PRAISE	15 · 3%	Reddit 14 · Amazon reviews 1
fear of smearing poop and puke	FEAR	11 · 2%	Reddit 11
mopping requires constant maintenance and refilling	FRUSTRATION	10 · 2%	Reddit 7 · Amazon reviews 3
dies just outside the warranty window	FRUSTRATION	8 · 2%	Reddit 7 · Amazon reviews 1
must pick up cords before cleaning	FRUSTRATION	6 · 1%	Reddit 6

105 of the 502 voices were sorted into a theme. The other 397: 347 on-topic but in no theme, 50 off-topic; all listed in the HTML version.

WHAT FRUSTRATES THEM

Robots that die after the warranty, spread a pet's mess, or tangle in cords

Two voices from each of three worry themes, as written.

dies just outside the warranty window

8 voices · Reddit 7 · Amazon reviews 1

> “I disagree with this completely. Error 13 on my Roborock s8 , terrible support and extremely complicated repairs (unless you have experience removing and soldering capacitors). All right outside of the warranty period.”
>
> Reddit · r/BuyItForLife · comment · Jul 2026

> “Just pray you don't have outright failures or are outside their 24 months window for "support". Terrible customer service for a ultra high end cost appliance”
>
> Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Jul 2026

fear of smearing poop and puke

11 voices · Reddit 11

> “That’s what I’ve heard, but scared that if a cat pukes and I don’t catch it that roller will run over it and paint my floors with it”
>
> Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Jul 2026

> “My guess is that it will spread out the cat puke instead of removing it....”
>
> Reddit · r/BuyItForLife · comment · Jul 2026

must pick up cords before cleaning

6 voices · Reddit 6

> “I love my roborock but I hate that they promote AI cable detection avoidance yet it still manages to tangle itself every single time.”
>
> Reddit · r/HomeKit · comment · Aug 2026

> “Bought a $1000 roborock because I cannot stand the dog hair all over the floor. Only downsides are that you have to regularly maintain it (clean the cleaner) and i would have thought that by 2025 it would run over less items/cords.”
>
> Reddit · r/CleaningTips · comment · Sep 2026

WHAT THEY WANT AND LOVE

They praise the pet-hair work and clean mornings, and ask for robots that stay off the cloud

Two voices from each of three themes, as written.

keeps up with endless pet hair

22 voices · Reddit 20 · Amazon reviews 2

“I got the L40 ultra a few weeks ago and I am SO in love with it. Two cats and a dog and it’s made such a difference.”

Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Oct 2026

“Roborock is amazing for pet-heavy households. I usually have between 1 and 5 dogs at home at any given time and my mid-range roborock held up a solid 4 years.”

Reddit · r/BuyItForLife · comment · Jul 2026

waking up to clean floors is lifechanging

15 voices · Reddit 14 · Amazon reviews 1

“I have seven cats. Roborock mop/vac setup. Life changing.”

Reddit · r/BuyItForLife · comment · Jul 2026

“I agree with all the positive feedback. One unexpected lifestyle benefit: it’s made cleaning up before and after guests SO much easier that it has made me more likely / less stressed to have visitors. Clean floors make such a huge difference.”

Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Oct 2026

want local control without cloud apps

18 voices · Reddit 17 · Amazon reviews 1

“Right? Anything with a camera on it that needs an internet connection I don’t trust to anyone else.”

Reddit · r/HomeKit · comment · Aug 2026

“This is an absolutely underrated point that most people skim over. After the bankruptcy, the new owners aren’t willing to support older models like yours anymore, and don’t really care how loyal customers feel about that.”

Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Apr 2026

THEIR WORDS

Their words: pet hair, self emptying, roller mop, battery life

The phrases people repeat across Reddit and reviews, counted, and the questions they ask out loud.

PHRASES 4 OR MORE VOICES WROTE · NUMBER OF VOICES

pet hair 22 · self emptying 18 · roller mop 18 · hard floors 16 · area rugs 15 · dust bin 15 · battery life 14 · mop pads 12 · long hair 11 · dog hair 11 · obstacle avoidance 9 · customer service 9

Counted, not chosen by a model: every run of 2 to 4 words that 4 or more of the voices we read wrote, links and names left out.

QUESTIONS THEY ASK · 59 VOICES ASK SOMETHING

“I’m thinking of getting a robot vacuum, is it worth it? Do they bang up the furniture? If you love yours, what brand.”

Reddit · r/CleaningTips · thread · Sep 2026

“Has anyone had a model last more than 2 years? How are parts for them?”

Reddit · r/RobotVacuums · comment · Jul 2026

“They won’t run at all without wifi?”

Reddit · r/BuyItForLife · comment · Jul 2026

Phrases: counted over the voices on Robot vacuums or its category (450 of 502); one voice counts once per phrase.

THREE POSTS TO MAKE FROM THEIR WORDS

Three posts written from the words in these threads and reviews, for any robot vacuum brand

Each opens with a line taken from a voice we read. A category report does not study any brand's own captions, so fit each line to your posts before using it.

KEEPS UP WITH ENDLESS PET HAIR · 22 VOICES

The shedding-season test

OPEN WITH

A dog shakes off on a hardwood floor; the robot is already rolling in.

“Two cats and a dog, and it's made such a difference.”

1. Show the bin after one night in shedding season.
2. Show the brush roll, and how often the hair has to be cut out.

Their words: #105 (Reddit), #214 (Reddit), #253 (Reddit)

DIES JUST OUTSIDE THE WARRANTY WINDOW · 8 VOICES

After the warranty

OPEN WITH

A robot vacuum on a repair bench, a calendar turned past its warranty date.

“Dies right outside of the warranty period? Here's what happens next.”

1. Say how long the warranty runs and what it covers, in plain words.
2. Show the parts an owner can replace at home: brushes, filters, the battery.

Their words: #211 (Reddit), #37 (Reddit), #72 (Reddit)

FEAR OF SMEARING POOP AND PUKE · 11 VOICES

The mess test

OPEN WITH

The robot slows and steers around a fake mess on a light floor.

“Scared it will run over it and paint your floors?”

1. Film obstacle avoidance on the messes in these threads, in one take.
2. Say plainly what it can't avoid, and what to do then.

Their words: #431 (Reddit), #54 (Reddit), #285 (Reddit)

HOW WE READ IT

What we read, how it was sorted, and what it cannot tell you

What the box said. “robot vacuums”: a category, which we read as Robot vacuums. No one brand was read.

Reddit. 24 threads and 426 comments from 8 subreddits, found by searching Reddit for “robot vacuum”, “best robot vacuum” over the last 12 months (Reddit's relevance order; up to 30 threads, up to 20 top comments each).

Under the brand's posts. A category report: no one brand's posts were read.

Amazon. 52 reviews of 3 products found by searching Amazon for “robot vacuum” (the top products by ratings, sponsored listings left out): per product up to 10 most helpful reviews, then up to 10 most helpful critical ones (1-3 stars; slide 3 gives each product's count read). The critical pass is there so complaints show; it is not the share of buyers who complain (Amazon's own star split is on slide 3).

Dates. Reddit 13 Apr 2026 to 26 Oct 2026; Amazon reviews 6 Mar 2018 to 24 Oct 2026; read October 27, 2026.

The themes. A model (Gemini) named the themes from an even sample of every source, then read each of the 502 voices, noted whether it was about Robot vacuums, its category or neither, and put 105 of them in a theme: 347 are on-topic but fit none of the themes, and 50 were off-topic. The counts are exact tallies of that sorting; the sorting is a reading, not a measurement.

The quotes. Every quote is one voice, stored as written and shown whole. No usernames. Voices that name someone's account, carry a link, or name or describe a private person are counted but never quoted (0 were left out for naming a person). Pasted repeats count once (2 left out).

What it cannot tell you. These are the people who chose to write, in public, where we looked: a sample, not your customers as a whole, and not a survey. A count says how often something came up in what we read, not how many people feel it.

The evidence. The HTML version of this report lists every voice we read, by theme, with a link to where it was written.