



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

This rare antique vacuum cleaner was made by Lakeside Foundry of Chicago and Kansas City. It is the tank type complete with base. The handle has been replaced with a homemade version, and the hose is no longer attached. It appears that the cleaning attachment for the hose has been inserted where the hose should be. The base measures 25" x 11" and with the handle stands 41" tall. Artifact courtesy Glorieta Private Collection.

SUGGESTED USES

1. Conduct the analysis of the artifact and determine that this is a vacuum cleaner. Have students compare and contrast this vacuum cleaner with those with which they are familiar today. How are the two vacuum cleaners the same, how are they different? What would be reasonable explanations for the similarities?
2. This is an early vacuum cleaner from the mid-19th century. It sold well, even though it did not work as well as intended. Using evidence gained from the analysis of the artifact, have students answer the following:
 - a. Why do you think that women purchased and used this item when it did not work well?
 - b. What changes occurred in mid-19th century society that would make it desirable to have such an item in a household?
 - c. What kinds of households do you believe possessed an item such as this? Why would they desire such an item, or feel they needed one?