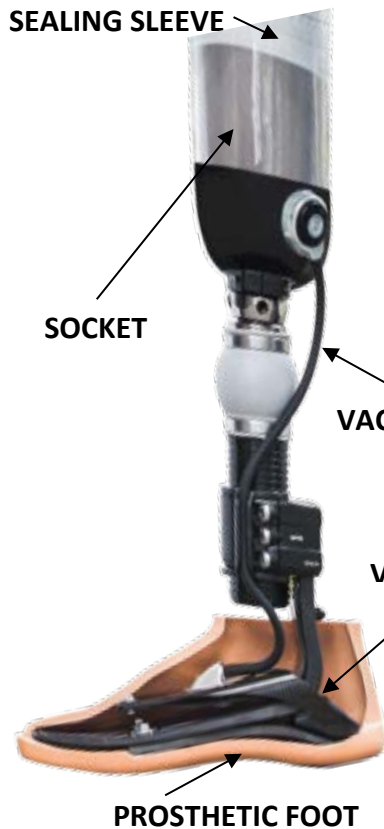


**What is an Elevated Vacuum Suspension & How does it work?**

Elevated vacuum is more than a simple suspension mechanism. It's the most secure suspension available and it also helps stabilize volume. As per our amputee's testimony; "It feels more connected to me, like it's a part of me." Vacuum suspension works by eliminating atmosphere from within the socket. In simple terms, the vacuum pump pulls soft tissue to the inner walls of the socket. Thus, suspension & prosthetic control is enhanced, common rotation problems are eliminated, and prosthetic control is optimal.

**Key Components & Requirements of a Vacuum / NPS Socket Prosthesis**

- A precisely fit comfortable total contact socket.
- A well-fitting silicone or urethane interface liner.
- A sealing sleeve to seal the socket to the residual limb.
- A mechanical or electronic vacuum pump.
- A fabric covered liner or wick/sock to allow air to escape over the entire surface of the residual limb.
- Understanding of vacuum system, how the prosthesis works, and open clear communication between the amputee and Prosthetist.
- Following protocols of using a prosthesis and cleanliness of prosthesis and its componentry.



**COMMON PROSTHETIC COMPONENTS**

**INTERFACE LINERS**



**PLY SOCKS**



**VACUUM SYSTEMS**

**MECHANICAL**



**ELECTRONIC**



## PUTTING ON YOUR PROSTHESIS



1. Turn the interface liner inside out.



2. Place rounded end of liner against limb, lightly grip liner while rolling up.



3. Roll completely onto limb without wrinkles.



4. If sock is required for wicking or as fitting aid, apply at this step.



5. Pull down the sealing sleeve & protective sleeve (if equipped) from socket.



6. Insert residual limb into socket with sock on outside liner.



7. Roll up the (Gator) protector sleeve (if equipped).



8. Roll/slide sealing sleeve over residual limb. Ensure there are no wrinkles in sleeve.



9. Ensure the sleeve is making direct contact with your liner or bare skin.



10. Activate Pump.

*If electronic pump, you will need to turn on the pump to activate.*

*If mechanical pump, the pump will activate as you walk automatically.*

Typically after 15-20 steps, full vacuum is achieved.

### TIP:

- The sealing sleeve **MUST** make contact with a minimum of 1 ½" of the skin at your leg or a non-fabric covered liner to gain seal.
- The sock **MUST** be 1 ½" **BELOW** the top of sealing sleeve.

## TAKING OFF YOUR PROSTHESIS

1. Sit down.
2. Slide the sealing sleeve down just below the back rim of the socket.
3. Slide the Gator protective sleeve down (if equipped).
4. Push the prosthesis off.
5. Pull off all socks.
6. Slide off the interface liner.
7. Inspect the skin.

**\*\* If there is redness that doesn't blanch or go away after 10 minutes, discontinue prosthetic use and contact your Prosthetist immediately.**