Walker Foundry
Case Study Report

GoFit 3 Cordless
Backpack Vacuum

13-Week Field Evaluation • HRC Torrance, Building D
Prepared by Walker Foundry, in partnership with Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH)

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Study at a Glance

A quick-reference snapshot of the GoFit 3 Cordless Backpack Vacuum field evaluation at HRC Torrance, Building D.

Duration	13 Weeks
Site	HRC Torrance
Operators	Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH)
Productivity	+88.9% average
Comfort	Improved at every checkpoint
Recommendation	Recommended for continued use

Walker Foundry Study Confidence Assessment

Category	Assessment
Evidence Strength	High
Methodological Confidence	High
Applicability	Moderate (single site, single unit)
Recommendation	Replication at additional sites recommended

Overall Confidence: HIGH

This evaluation was conducted under normal operating conditions using Walker Foundry's standard field-testing methodology. Findings are considered highly reliable for comparable team-cleaning environments, with broader industry applicability requiring replication across additional facilities.

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Executive Summary

About Walker Foundry

Walker Foundry is a San Diego-based cleaning industry consultancy focused on operations, workforce systems, training, and applied field research. Founded by Ben Walker, the firm works with cleaning organizations, manufacturers, and industry partners to evaluate products, improve processes, and document real-world outcomes.

About Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH)

Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2008 with a mission to create and maintain job opportunities for people with disabilities — including physical, developmental, and mental disabilities, as well as veterans with disabilities. LAHH delivers professional building services for commercial and government facilities, with approximately 88% of its workforce comprised of people with disabilities. Its custodial teams reflect that mission through professionalism, training, and purpose-driven work.

Walker Foundry collaborated with LAHH to introduce the GoFit 3 Cordless Backpack Vacuum into LAHH's daily cleaning operations and evaluate its performance under real-world conditions.

This report provides Walker Foundry's analysis of a 13-week field evaluation of the ProTeam 3 Cordless Backpack Vacuum, conducted at HRC Torrance – Building D, a 5,700 sq ft Habilitation / Social Services facility (~4,700 sq ft cleanable, 95% carpet) operated by LAHH under a Team Cleaning model. LAHH's Team Cleaning structure assigns dedicated roles — Light Duty Specialist, Vacuum Specialist, Restroom Specialist, and Utility Specialist — and the GoFit 3 was evaluated entirely within the Vacuum Specialist function.

Across four measured periods, the GoFit 3 improved field productivity by an average of 88.9% with measured gains ranging from +60% to +139%. Cleaning quality, soil removal, overall appearance, and specialist comfort were rated 1.0 (Excellent) in nearly every tracked week, and specialists reached full adaptation to the new unit by Week 2. The methods of analysis include formal weekly KPI tracking, structured supervisor and specialist surveys, and a specification comparison against the site's prior equipment. The complete dataset can be found in the accompanying case study questionnaire and timeline.

Methodology

The findings in this report were determined and compiled in the manner Walker Foundry uses for all field-testing engagements, ensuring consistent, defensible comparisons against a site's established process. Testing was limited to a single GoFit 3 Cordless unit deployed with one custodial team in one facility, integrated into the site's existing Team Cleaning model without altering staffing levels, routes, or service expectations.

All findings are based on the following conditions:

- The Vacuum Specialist was adequately trained on the unit, including proper vacuum usage and proper fitting, at the start of the case study.
- Performance was assessed using the test site's established daily vacuuming process.
- Data were collected weekly across 13 weeks via supervisor and specialist observation, structured surveys, and formal productivity tracking (productivity in sq ft/hr and 1–5 quality ratings where 1 = Excellent).

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- Photographic and descriptive documentation was collected where permitted by the facility.

Productivity figures in this report are field-measured rates, not theoretical cleaning times, captured under normal daily operating conditions.

Results and Analysis

Results and analysis of testing indicate that the GoFit 3 Cordless reduced vacuuming time substantially across every period measured against the site's established Prolux 2.0 process. The largest gain was recorded in Month 2, where a single GoFit-proficient operator improved productivity by 139 percent — more than double the baseline rate. Productivity settled at a still-substantial +89 percent in Month 3 and +67.5 percent at the Week 11 outcome-analysis checkpoint, indicating the gains held up as normal route conditions (multiple operators, standard staffing) resumed rather than reflecting a single best-case week.

Cleaning quality, soil removal, and overall appearance were rated Excellent (1.0 of 5) in essentially every week measured, with no decline over the course of the study. Supervisors reported no visible debris left on carpet from Week 3 onward, and fewer operator reports of “no suction” issues compared with the Prolux 2.0.

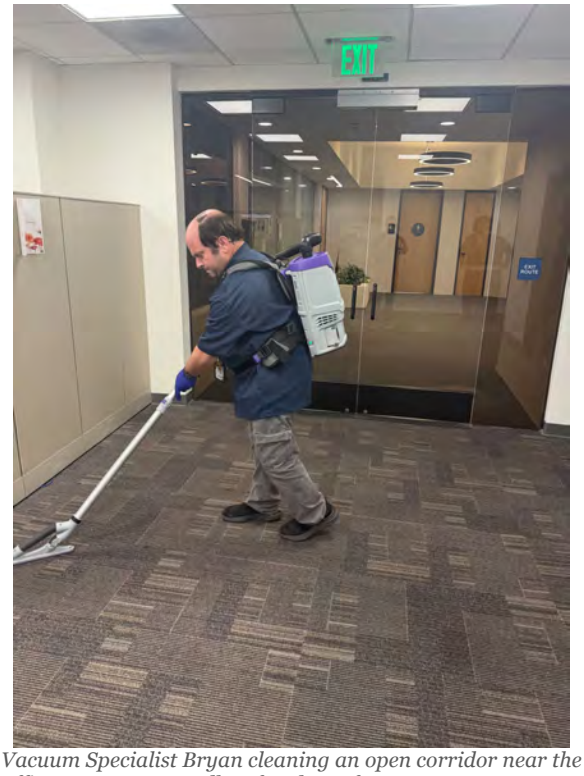
Operator feedback was consistently positive. The lightweight, well-balanced design and shorter hose reduced fatigue and contact with furniture in occupied cubicles, and operators reached full adaptation to the unit by Week 2. Two direct quotes captured during the Week 10 interviews and the Week 12 survey illustrate the shift in day-to-day experience:

> *“I wouldn’t be happy if I had to switch back to the old vacuum.”*
>
> — Bryan, Vacuum Specialist, Week 10

> *“Less headache… I do not need to check the carpet after being vacuumed.”*
>
> — Supervisor, Week 12

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Photo Documentation: Vacuum Specialist in the Field The GoFit 3 in normal daily use at HRC Torrance – Building D.



Vacuum Specialist Bryan cleaning an open corridor near the office entrance — cordless freedom of movement across open floor areas.



Vacuum Specialist Bryan vacuuming under a desk in an occupied cubicle — the shorter hose and cordless vacuum improve reach in tight spaces.

Findings: Productivity

Formal productivity tracking (baseline = Prolux 2.0 Tech, ~7,015 sq ft/hr, ~0.67 hrs per cleaning shift over 4,700 cleanable sq ft) showed sustained gains by switching to the GoFit 3 in every measured period:

Period	GoFit 3 (sq ft/ hr)	Baseline (sq ft/hr)	% Difference	Notes
Month 1 (Wks 1–3)	11,190	7,015	+60%	Field-measured
Month 2 (Wks 5–7)	16,786	7,015	+139%	Field-measured; peak period
Month 3 (Wks 8–10)	13,269	7,015	+89%	Field-measured
Week 11 Checkpoint	11,750	7,015	+67.5%	Outcome-analysis checkpoint
Study Average (Mo. 1–3 + Wk 11)	**13,249**	**7,015**	**+88.9%**	**Unweighted average, 4 measured periods**

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Specialist usage rotated across periods, which is a relevant factor in reading these gains side by side: Month 1 was run with three different specialists as part of LAHH's regular weekly rotation. Month two's peak figure came from a single Vacuum Specialist, Month 3 used two Vacuum Specialists, and the Week 11 checkpoint used one. The baseline rate (~7,015 sq ft/hr) was measured once, prior to deployment, and held constant across all four comparisons rather than re-measured each period. Individual operator proficiency and crew size likely account for some of the period-to-period swing in gain percentage, in addition to the vacuum itself.

Findings: Improvement in Operator Comfort

Comfort and fatigue were rated 1 (Much Better than the prior equipment) at every single survey checkpoint across the full 12 weeks — Weeks 2, 3, 7, and 12 — with no exceptions and no decline at any point. Specialists did not simply tolerate a faster pace; every specialist surveyed by LAHH and interviewed by Walker Foundry reported the GoFit 3 was easier to use than the equipment it replaced. This matters in particular given LAHH's workforce: comfort and low physical strain are not incidental benefits but directly relevant to a team where accessibility and manageable physical demands are part of the mission.

This held true despite the GoFit 3 weighing 75% more than the Prolux 2.0 baseline (15.7 lbs vs. 9 lbs). Install-day fitting notes recorded that the harness was manageable "regardless of the age and physical condition" of the specialist wearing it. A Week 3–4 entry describes a specialist already familiar with a comparable ProTeam backpack unit who found the GoFit lighter and easier to maneuver than its listed weight would suggest. Taken together, this is the clearest evidence in the study that the productivity improvement is a genuine ergonomic and workflow win, not a speed-for-effort trade-off — an especially meaningful result for a workforce where physical accessibility is central to the mission.

Findings: ROI and Reallocation of Labor

Across the four measured periods, the unweighted average productivity improvement was 88.9%. A dollar budgetary amount was difficult to pin down since staffing at the site remained consistent. Instead, LAHH was able to reallocate the labor savings to other cleaning tasks that normally are addressed once per week rather than daily.

Specifically, LAHH reported that once the Vacuum Specialists completed their daily routes, they were able to stow the GoFit 3 on its Vac Station and move onto additional cleaning duties. Additionally, the reallocation freed the site's Utility Specialist to focus on more detailed cleaning of entryways and first-impression areas that they may not be able to accomplish every day due to time constraints.

Tasks that the Vacuum Specialists were able to take on as a result of the improved productivity included:

- Thorough mopping of hard floor surface
- Spot cleaning of entrance door glass
- Detail cleaning of elevators and break rooms

According to LAHH, the productivity gain contributed to improvements in their Team Cleaning program and overall daily cleaning performance.

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Findings: Battery Life and Maintenance

Given the smaller test site and near-doubling of daily productivity, faster completion of daily vacuuming tasks reduced total daily run time. As a result, the 8-amp battery held its charge throughout the entire week of use. LAHH reported that instead of charging the battery every night, it made more operational sense to add charging to the vacuum's weekly maintenance. Weekly maintenance includes replacing the microfilter, rinsing the cloth and dome filters, and checking the HEPA exhaust filters for wear. Historically, cordless vacuums have faced challenges with usable battery life – smaller sites that require less vacuuming may be ideal use cases for cordless units going forward.

Findings: Specification vs. Field Performance

The GoFit 3 trades some raw motor specification for battery-driven convenience and filtration area versus the site's prior corded-battery unit:

Specification	Prolux 2.0 Tech (baseline)	ProTeam GoFit 3 (3 qt)
Weight	9 lbs	15.7 lbs
Motor Power	1400W / 12 amp	240–310W
Runtime	Up to 60 min (2 batteries)	106 min (low) / 83 min (high)
Dust Capacity	0.64 L (~0.68 qt)	3 qt
Filtration	3-stage HEPA H13 (99.95%)	ProLevel (99.9%), HEPA Media
Battery Cycles	Not specified	1,000 cycles
Warranty	5 yr motor / 3 yr body (limited)	3 yr parts/labor; 2 yr motor/battery

Notably, the GoFit 3 is outperformed by the Prolux 2.0 baseline on several raw specifications — lower motor wattage, lower airflow, lower water lift — and is 75% heavier (15.7 lbs vs. 9 lbs). Despite this, it produced substantially higher field productivity and was consistently rated "much better" for operator comfort. This indicates the productivity and comfort gains observed in this study are driven more by practical, ergonomic factors — cordless freedom of movement, hose length, and backpack/wand geometry — than by raw suction power.

Findings: Recurring Quality & Usability Issues

Unlike every other tracked category, two items did not trend toward Excellent over the course of the study and instead persisted or worsened. Most specifically, workers unanimously preferred the Sidewinder attachment over the ProBlade, and the Filter Seal/Cap was difficult for users to seal consistently (see photos below). Specialists reported that the two-piece adjustable wand did not consistently stay in position, while the ProBlade was harder to navigate. Furthermore, the ProBlade started falling apart (see photos below) by month 2:

Category	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Trend
Filter Seal / Closing Cap	—	Flagged (qualitative)	4.0 / 5	Not resolved
ProBlade Tool Preference	—	3.0 / 5	4.0 / 5	Worsened

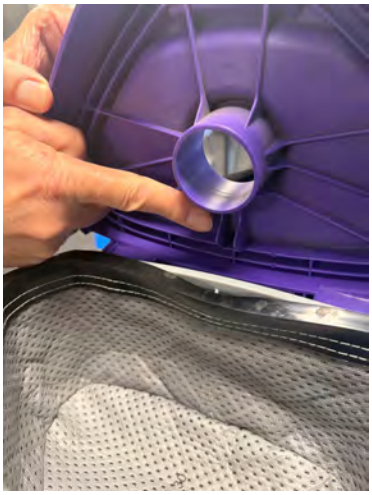
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Both issues were first noted qualitatively in Month 2 operator feedback, then formally tracked and rated in Month 3 — at which point they were the only two categories in the entire study rated close to "Poor." Two additional field notes from earlier in the deployment are consistent with this pattern:

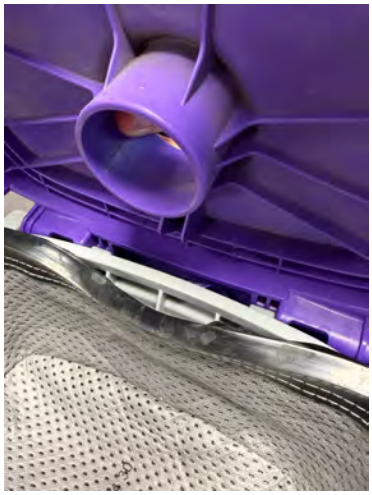
- Charging station function: in both Week 1 and Week 2 notes, the operator reported it was "not possible to load and unload the vacuum from the vacuum station" using the station's intended assist mechanism — a functional failure at install, not just an inconvenience, though operators adapted a workaround.
- Carpet debris pickup: in Week 3–4 notes, an operator reported that on a few occasions debris became trapped in the carpet and had to be loosened with a shoe before it could be picked up — one of the few exceptions to an otherwise 1.0 (Excellent) soil-removal record.

Photo Documentation: Filter Seal / Closing Cap

Photos captured during a Month 3 emptying cycle illustrate the gap described above.



Closing cap does not sit flush against the mesh filter, leaving a gap along the seam.



Intake-side view of the same gap, where debris can pass through during emptying.



Debris and hair inside the cloth filter bag after a service interval (dated 8/28).

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Photo Documentation: Wand Lock & Charging Station

Photos of the wand extension lock and the wall-mounted charging/vacuum station referenced above.



The wand extension lock joint, shown here reinforced with tape as a field workaround for the slipping issue described above.



The wall-mounted charging/vacuum station: the battery slot and hose-docking arms referenced in the hose-docking and battery-clearance notes.

Findings: Study Confidence & Limitations

Walker Foundry documents the following limitations transparently, consistent with its commitment to defensible, real-world field testing. None of them overturn the study's core findings, but they affect how the results should be generalized.

- Single-site, single-unit deployment: this evaluation reflects one GoFit 3 unit operated by one custodial team at one facility (HRC Torrance – Building D, a 95% carpeted Habilitation/Social Services site under a Team Cleaning model). Results may differ across facility types, floor mixes, or staffing structures; replication across additional sites would be needed before treating these results as universally predictive.
- Month 1 vs. later-month measurement methodology: the Month 1 productivity figure (+60%, ~11,190 sq ft/hr) was observed and estimated rather than formally timed. Formal, consistent timed tracking began in Week 5, making the Month 2 figure (+139%, 16,786 sq ft/hr) the more methodologically rigorous of the two. Both are genuine improvements over baseline, but Month 1 should be read as an approximation and Month 2 onward as the primary benchmark.
- Subjective rating source: all quality and comfort ratings were provided by the specialists and supervisors directly involved in the deployment; no independent or blind evaluation protocol was used. The consistency of 1.0 ratings across seven categories, three months, and multiple

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specialists — combined with matching qualitative supervisor notes — meaningfully reduces this concern, but it remains a methodological note for readers relying on this data.

- No labor-cost / ROI figure: the documented time savings (~1.6 hrs/week average, ~16–25 hrs projected over the full study) could not be converted into a dollar-value return on investment. LAHH noted, however, the biggest ROI from their operational perspective was the ability to use the time savings to reallocate labor throughout the daily cleaning shift.

Two items flagged as open questions during the Month 2 interim review are now resolved by the full 12-week dataset: the concern that early ratings might reflect a novelty effect is substantially reduced, since 1.0 (Excellent) ratings held steady across three consecutive months and multiple specialists rather than declining after initial enthusiasm; and the Sidewinder-over-ProBlade and one-piece-wand preferences, initially observational, are now consistent findings recommended as formal accessory guidance (see Findings: Recurring Quality & Usability Issues) for this particular case study.

Opportunities for Improvement

Based on the findings above, four items are recommended as follow-up for the manufacturer. None affected cleaning quality, soil removal, or overall appearance, which stayed at 1.0 (Excellent) throughout:

- Vacuum Station & Hose/Wand Handling: the charging station needs easier hose docking/undocking.
- Battery Handling: battery insertion/removal is tight at the charging station; the metal wall anchor bar is too short, and therefore the unit sits too high for easy backpack removal.
- Filter Seal / Closing Cap: during emptying, debris was found in the cloth filter as the paper filter shifted when the closing cap wasn't fully secured — flagged in Months 2 and 3 (rated 4.0/5 by Month 3).
- The two-piece wand's extension lock does not stay firmly in place during use. The Pro-Blade attachment showed significant signs of wear by the second month of use.

Conclusion

Across all 12 weeks of formal measurement, the GoFit 3 Cordless Backpack Vacuum sustained a clear operational advantage over HRC Torrance – Building D's previous vacuuming process, improving productivity between 60 and 139 percent while holding cleaning quality, soil removal, and overall appearance at Excellent (1.0) throughout. Operator comfort, noise level, and battery performance improved from Month 1 to Month 2 and held steady through Month 3, with full operator adaptation reached by Week 2 and sustained preference for the unit and its Sidewinder attachment. Three consistent, low-severity improvement opportunities — vacuum-station/hose docking design, battery clearance, and the filter seal/closing cap — are recommended as follow-up items for the manufacturer. This aligns with the original test parameters set out in the GoFit 3 Cordless engagement scope, which assessed performance against the site's established process without altering staffing levels, routes, or service expectations.

The findings support continued deployment of the GoFit 3 in comparable Team Cleaning environments while identifying specific product engineering improvements that could further strengthen the GoFit 3’s performance in the field.

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Report Details

Field	Detail
Report period	Weeks 1–12 (Study: Mar 31 – Jul 8, 2026)
Site	HRC Torrance – Building D (LAHH), 5,700 sq ft total (~4,700 sq ft cleanable), 95% carpet, Habilitation/Social Services facility
Source documents	Month 1, 2 & 3 Review case studies; GoFit Case Study Timeline (KPI Calculator, Master Timeline tabs); GoFit 3 Cordless Scope
Prepared by	Walker Foundry, in partnership with Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH)
Prepared for	ProTeam
Submission date	July 14, 2026

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