

Cartridge Capacities:

Nearly all manufacturers make different capacity cartridges for their machines and only give you the small ones with the printer. Lexmark are the worst at this and have even stooped to not including a black cartridge with some of their machines in the hope that you will continue to use the colour and photo cartridges to make black! Check the following and always use the highest capacity you can;

Make	Low	High	Note
Epson	T0891/2/3/4	T0711/2/3/4	Twice the fill
Canon	37/38/40/41	40/41/50/51	Higher fill
Lexmark	17	16	Twice the fill
Lexmark	27	26	3 times the fill
Lexmark	32	34	Over twice the fill
Lexmark	33	35	Over twice the fill
Lexmark	31 (Photo)	34 (Black)	Replace photo cart with black if necessary
HP	350	350XL	5 times bigger!
HP	351	351XL	4 times bigger!
HP	342	343	Ask us to check your specific machine
HP	337	338	

These are just the most common examples for you to watch out for. Even better- we are the experts- ask us BEFORE you buy your new printer! The PCPro survey mentioned overleaf also worked out how much it cost, on a small range of machines, to print an A4 page. This is the average, which for some makes is only 1 machine surveyed.

Epson: £1.97 HP:£1.20 Canon £1.43 Dell £2.39 Lexmark £1.71
A consistent error is to compare the cost of cartridges without considering the page yield. It is the cost per page that matters. If one cartridge contains 6.5ml of ink and another contains 30ml then the latter, at even 3 times the price, is far better value.

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Opinions and advice are the result of years of experience. Please make your own enquiries before relying upon our opinion. No responsibility accepted for the use to which this information is put.

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Inkjet Printing:

Our advice and opinions



- The Types of Cartridges
- The makes pf printer
- Manufacturer's 'fiddles'
- Jargon buster
- For home & inkjet users



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Expertise

Printerfood was originally started in Sunderland in 2005 as an Inkdrop franchise. Since then we have developed expertise in printers to the extent that major customers consult us before making a purchase– even if it isn't from us! We can help you to predict costs, source product and understand technology. Yes– our advice is free– because we know that you will come back to us for your toners and cartridges...



We have our own remanufacturing facility for inkjets and our lasers are made to ISO standards in factories in China, Europe and the USA.

We are agents for Media Sciences who produce wax sticks and lasers in their own factories to fit many makes of business machine.

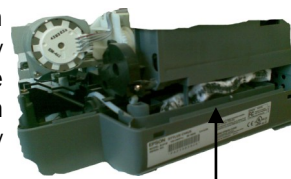
General Principles

When you find that cartridges for that new printer cost £6 compared to your friend's machine at £18 each, you are bound to consider that you have found a bargain.... Right? Generally speaking– no! You might also consider that a system which uses 4 or 6 cartridges would be cheaper to run because you only replace the one that is empty– again, wrong!

In a survey of 15 inkjet printers by PCPro Magazine it was found that up to 50% of the ink in Epson and Canon printers is wasted in cleaning the printheads. (See opposite.) So a cartridge costing around £6 may be actually costing £12– and you need 4 of them!

So we generally recommend normal home users to stick with HP (Hewlett Packard) printers. Dell and Lexmark (and some Canon) printers use the 'cartridge with printhead' technology as well but Dell cartridges are expensive and mostly only available from the Dell website and Lexmark have a poor reputation for reliability. HP also make some printers with separate cartridges so ring us to check before you buy!

Once you have your printer USE IT! No printer can seal the ink cartridge perfectly when not in use so that it does not dry out. Printers that take separate cartridges must be used every few days at least– they will then need to clean dry ink off less often and thus there will be more ink left to actually print with. Never turn off the printer by pulling the plug or at the mains– always use the on/off switch itself so that the printheads are 'parked' correctly over the air seal.



The Epson Waste Pad

How to reduce your printing costs:

1. Use the correct type of printer. Printing text on an inkjet is wasteful. Using an inkjet within a business is generally not 'a good idea'.
2. Use PrinterFood cartridges– same or better performance, less cost!
3. Use the highest capacity cartridges. Many laser toners come in 2 or 3 capacities– for HP this is the 'A' or 'X' designation.
4. Ask for advice BEFORE you decide which printer to buy
5. Don't assume that the cartridges that came with your printer are the ones you should continue to buy. Many Lexmark machines come with colour and photo cartridges. The photo cartridge only has a third of the black ink of a black cartridge.
6. Use a decent paper. Cheap paper can shed dust and catch inside your printer– shortening the life of the printheads and rollers.
7. Switch it off at night– if it isn't a Xerox wax stick printer.
8. Don't turn off inkjets by 'pulling the plug'! The cartridge carrier needs to park itself over a rubber seal– use the correct button.

Quality

With compatibles you need to be careful! One method that internet sellers use to enable very low costs is to reduce the amount of ink in the cartridge. Another is to use very poor quality ink or the same ink for every cartridge. If a poor quality pigment ink is used in a cartridge such as the Canon CLi8 then the print will never really dry out. This seems especially true on Lexmark photo paper.



PrinterFood Epson T0893 cartridges have 13.5ml of ink- the OEM has just 3.5ml! PrinterFood HP 21XL cartridges have 20ml of ink- the original has 10ml.

Our cartridges are manufactured or remanufactured to the highest standards and, of course, we are here with a real shop should you wish to chat about anything!

Cleaning

Epson, Brother and most Canon machines have to use their ink to clean themselves. This from the Brother website:

Why do the color ink cartridges run out of ink even though I never or rarely print in color?

“ One factor that will affect your color ink consumption is the cleaning cycle of the machine. The machine is designed to automatically flush and clean ALL of the ink jet nozzles on a programmed schedule. A periodical cleaning or "flushing" of all the ink cartridges occurs approximately every two days. During the cleaning process, the machine draws out a small amount of ink to remove air bubbles from the cartridge and to remove dust and dried ink from the ink nozzles and channels. “