

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! Always use the highest capacity you can

Printing Costs

Try these tricks to reduce the cost of printing;

Preview

Always preview a new document before printing – and check it!

Draft

Try printing at a lower resolution than normal. Especially good with new cartridges. The settings are in printers > preferences

Duplex

Print on both sides of the paper! In our office this is the default setting on our HP Officejet Pro. Inkjet and Samsung laser.

Cartridge capacity

Don't assume that what came with the printer is the one that should be used for ever. Get the Lexmark 35, not the 33. Buy the HP 2612X, not the 2612A

Change the font!

Believe it or not, Times New Roman uses 70% less ink than Tahoma!

Purchasing

Fax a copy of your last cartridge purchasing order or invoice to us on 0191 564 1210. We will see if we can beat it!

Use regularly

Printers with separate ink tanks must not dry out. Use them every day to actually reduce your costs by keeping head cleaning to a minimum. These include Canon, Brother and Epson.

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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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Reducing Printing Costs & Waste

Our advice and opinion



- The Types of Cartridges
- Reducing printing costs
- Choosing the correct printer
- Getting rid of used cartridges



0191 564 1234

Expertise

Printerfood was originally started in Sunderland in 2005 as The 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 a remanufacturing facility for inkjets and our lasers are made to ISO standards in factories in China, Europe and the USA.

Types of Cartridge & Printers

For a full 'jargon buster' please see our other leaflets, particularly 'Choosing a Printer'

Inkjet/ Bubblejet	Printer that uses liquid ink held in cartridges. Ink is shot onto page as small 'dots'. Low cost printers, Page costs can be high, especially Epson, Brother and some Canons
Laser	Printer using a solid powder-like ink which is melted onto the page using heat. Very high quality, low page costs for high volume printing. Expensive for low volume.
Page costs	The actual cost of printing a page. Some printers are sold cheaply because the cartridges are expensive.
Multifunction/ MFP/ PSC	A printer which also scans/ copies and often faxes as well. Most can copy without the computer being switched on.
Duplexing	Printing on both sides of the paper automatically.
Business Inkjet	An inkjet built to high-volume standards to provide colour printing for busy offices. The HP 'K' series is a fine example.
Compatible Cartridge	An ink cartridge made to fit your printer – not original. Epson, Brother and Canon compatibles are commonly this type
Remanufactured Cartridge	Original cartridge which has been dismantled, cleaned and refilled. HP, Lexmark and Dell are commonly remanufactured – they have the printhead incorporated in the cartridge
Refilled cartridge	New ink or toner has been poured into an existing or newly made hole in the cartridge. Unreliable and messy with low success rate and inconsistent fill level.
OEM	Original equipment made by big company like Canon & HP

Disposal

Always take used inkjets to be recycled. We are happy to take them all! Epson and Brother inkjets can only be thrown away – that is what happens when you give them charity as well. Empty laser cartridges should be taken away by your supplier. Printerfood include this as a service to customers.

Different Printing Systems

Inkjets:

There are 2 systems. One uses a cartridge with a printhead built-in. These are Dell, most HP, Lexmark and some Canon. The other is separate 'tanks' (as many as 8) of ink. These are pierced by a needle which then carries the ink to a printhead built into the machine. Typically Epson, Brother and some Canon.

In terms of recycling and costs the separate tank type is very much the poor relation. Not recyclable and wasteful of ink – ask any Epson owner how quickly their ink goes when the machine hasn't been used a few days – it has cleaned itself with the missing ink.

You may be put off by the higher cost of HP/ Dell/ Lexmark but a lot more ink ends up being used on the paper so the actual costs are lower. (PCPro magazine)

The waste ink in Epson-type machines has to go somewhere... So a pad inside fills up and the machine stops printing after 2 or 3 years.

Lasers:

The fastest growing sector of the printing market is small SOHO lasers. These can cost as little as £65 for a colour laser. This is a terrible false economy if you are a large user (over 2,000 pages per month) The cartridges, which take 1,000 years to decompose, only print around 900 pages each.

A large laser, costing over £350, will usually take toners that are much larger capacity and therefore less cost in both materials and £'s to print.

A good way of sourcing a laser is to buy second-hand. Beware, however.. Some machines, such as Xerox and Oki, need separate drum units and these are expensive. Many users dump their machines when they discover this. In Canon and HP lasers, for example, the drum tends to be part of the cartridge.

Wax:

There are other methods of printing. Wax sticks, from Xerox, is one and the actual cost per page is very low. However, in terms of energy use these machines take around 20 minutes to 'warm up' and thus many users leave them all 24/7. Not environmentally friendly and costly in electricity!