

Refilling Inkjets

Advice
Information



PRINTER
CONSUMABLES
ASSOCIATION

Types Of Cartridge

There are 3 basic types of cartridge;

Type 1. Inkjet tanks: A plastic tank filled with ink that is pierced by a needle in the printer. All Epson and Brother, some Canon and HP

Type 2. Inkjet with Printhead: Substantial, solid tank with a printhead and circuit board. All Lexmark and Dell, most HP and a few Canon

Type 3. Laser: Large plastic tanks filled with powder so fine it flows like water. Mainly business machines but some Samsung and HPs are suitable for home use.

What can be refilled?

All can be refilled but not all will work afterwards!

Type 1 are not worth the bother because new one (compatibles) cost so little. Decent compatibles are around the £4- £6 mark. Epson compatibles costing less than £3 are only worth it if you don't value your pictures or your printer long-term.

Type 3 are no longer refilled on an ad-hoc basis. The process is fraught with difficulties, the resulting quality very questionable as the drums are not replaced. There are health & safety questions about the long term effects of inhaling toner particles. PrinterFood laser toners are factory refurbished by major players in the market.

Type 2 are the inkjets which can be refilled. We sell kits if you wish to try yourself! The process, detailed below, is long and technically detailed. So, to help you, we take your empty off you and sell you a remanufactured one that we did previously. Your empty is processed and sold to another customer later on. Why? Because we don't provide overnight accommodation! Companies which claim to refill 'while you wait' are getting fewer all the time.

The process, briefly, is;

Test for electrical failure. Around 25% of empties fail at this point and are thrown away.

Evacuate using vacuum. Special equipment is used to completely empty the cartridge.

Flush the cartridge. Using a flushing solution and de-ionised water.

Dry the cartridge. To reform the internal sponge and prevent moisture 'pooling' the ink and thus stopping the flow. This is usually done over 24hrs in warm ovens.

Refill the cartridge. Best done under vacuum to prevent air pockets.

Leave standing for 12 hours. Allows the ink to properly populate the sponge.

Test Print. To check the quality. Another 30% fail at this point.

Weigh and label. To check that the fill of ink is correct.

Clean and label. To ensure that the cartridge is clean and correctly identified.

The vast majority of PrinterFood inkjet cartridges go through this process in factories in the USA, China and UK.