

INK CARTRIDGES

POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

Printer inks can be toxic to the environment but not all printer inks are hazardous. The level of toxicity of printer inks depends on the components from which they are made of. Most of the printer and ink manufacturers today produce petroleum-based inks. The principle environmental hazard of ink toner cartridges is landfill consumption. Businesses worldwide dispose of thousands of ink toner cartridges each day. A discarded ink toner cartridge is not biodegradable and takes up land fill space virtually forever. On the other hand, a recycled ink toner cartridge can be reused up to ten times without product degradation. In North America, more than 40,000 tons of plastic and metal is saved from landfills annually as a result of cartridge recycling. Many ink toner dealers as well as local suppliers will accept used ink toner cartridge.

CHARACTERIZATION

Ink toner cartridges are a recyclable item.

CONTAINER MARKING/LABELING AND HANDLING PROCEDURES

1. For bulk storage, select an approved container. The suggested container is a sturdy box for accumulation.
2. For a one for one exchange, send the used cartridge back in the back that the new cartridge came in.
3. Make sure container is in a proper accumulation area.



TURN-IN PROCEDURES

Ink toner cartridges can be recycled in one of the following way:

1. Many toner and ink cartridges can be refilled and reused up to ten times. Many retail stores such as Best Buy, Staples, Office Depot, and Office Max will either refill or collect ink cartridges. (NOTE: Payment for cartridges cannot be accepted for turning in cartridges to local vendors)
2. Companies such as Hewlett Packard and Xerox provide recycling services for their own cartridges. These services often involve ordering a prepaid envelope to mail cartridges directly back to the manufacture.
3. Take ink cartridges to the USPFO.