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Color LW 12/600 PS: Print Longevity (8/95)

Article Created: 24 August 1995

TOPIC -----

How sensitive to light is the toner in the Color LaserWriter 12/600? Is it rated as "archival materials" or "light fast"? What other information is available about storing these prints?

DISCUSSION -----

The following information about light sensitivity and proper storage environment was obtained from the vendor that supplies the toner products for the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS.

- The color fades very slightly under normal room light. But if you plan to keep the color printouts for a long period (more than 2 years), put them in a binder. (Sometimes the color appears to change when in fact it is a color change in the paper itself.)
- Do not store color printouts together with PVC (polyvinyl chloride) materials such as a clear holder. The toner may melt, causing the paper and the PVC materials to stick together.
- Use only non-solvent glues to glue color printouts together.
- Solvents will dissolve the toner. Before using a glue, test it on unwanted printouts.
- Before inserting any color printout between printed pages, make sure the pages are completely dry; otherwise the ink on those printed pages may cause the toner to melt.
- Store color printouts flat. If they are folded or wrinkled, the toner may come off.
- Store color printouts in at room temperature. High temperature will cause the toner to melt and colors to mix.

NOTE:

The longevity of printed materials can be affected not only by the environment (light, temperature and chemical exposure), but also by the quality and makeup of the paper supporting the image. The above applies only to the color toners.

Understand that there will be archival differences in the color toners (yellow, magenta, cyan and black); the color layers will probably fade at the different rates. While manufacturers can provide rough estimates on the longevity of their products, they must base such numbers on accelerated tests that may not have an accurate correlation to the real-world storage conditions.

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Keywords: hts

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 18481