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LaserWriter and LaserWriter II: How to Minimize Smudging

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TOPIC -----

I am seeing a lot of smudging with the LaserWriter and LaserWriter II printers in our office. What's wrong? What can I do to minimize this?

DISCUSSION -----

In most cases, smudging is due to the operation of the printer below the stated minimum 20 percent relative humidity. This often occurs in the winter when dry, cool air is brought inside and warmed up. Because of the latent humidity in the printer, paper, and toner cartridge, it takes approximately 24 hours for a change in humidity to reflect in the results. The condition of the printer, paper, and toner can all have a significant impact on the print quality. Changing parts or modules has no effect on a humidity-related problem.

Here are some suggestions for minimizing smudging:

- Use a humidifier in the vicinity of the printer and its paper. Try to maintain the humidity at a level of 40 to 70 percent.
- Place a moist sponge with the paper supply in a closed container (like sealed cabinet.) This does not control the humidity level within the printer or toner. This method, therefore, has limited effectiveness.
- Before inserting paper into the paper cassette, use a static-dissipating spray (e.g., Static Guard™.)
- Clean the printer regularly to reduce toner deposits in accordance with the "Owner's Guide" recommendations.

In conclusion, the best solution is to operate the printer within its specified humidity range.

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