



Tech Info Library

LaserWriter: Toner Cartridge Guidelines (2/95)

Article Created: 19 November 1990

Article Reviewed/Updated: 21 February 1995

TOPIC -----

Does Apple publish guidelines concerning remanufacturing of toner cartridges?

DISCUSSION -----

Apple recommends using remanufactured or reconditioned instead of refilled toner cartridges.

Refilled Cartridges

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Refilled cartridges are merely refilled with toner, usually of a different kind than the original equipment manufacturer toner. The parts inside are not touched. Refilled cartridges may include worn parts, which do not yield the high level of print quality expected of laser printers. In addition, the printer warranty may be void if the printer is damaged due to the use of poor-quality recycled toner cartridges.

Remanufactured Cartridges

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Reconditioned or remanufactured cartridges, on the other hand, can be used safely if certain steps are taken in the remanufacturing process. There is the added advantage that these cartridges get recycled, reducing the amount of solid waste that goes into landfills. The minimum recommended guidelines for remanufactured toner cartridges are:

Photo-Conductive Image Drum Inspection/Replacement

Inspection, and, if necessary, replacement of the photo-conductive image drum. This is probably the most important part in the cartridge. It is the one most likely to suffer from abrasion and scratches after normal use. A damaged photo drum does not yield good print quality.

Urethane Wiper Blade Inspection/Replacement

Inspection, and, if necessary, replacement of the urethane wiper blade on the photo drum. This part scrapes toner from the drum. It is subject to heat degradation over time, making it hard and brittle and more likely to damage the photo drum.

Internal Parts Cleaning and Inspection

Cleaning and inspection of internal parts. There are many small plastic parts, including gears and springs, that should be inspected and cleaned in the remanufacturing process to ensure that they are not faulty.

Toner Powder Quality

Use of good-quality toner powder.

Apple cannot endorse or certify the products of recycled toner cartridge vendors, because we cannot maintain a program of regular testing of their products to ensure consistent quality control.

Article Change History:

- 21 Feb 1995 - Added keyword; made minor technical updates.
- 28 Nov 1994 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.
- 23 Jun 1993 - Updated vendor name.

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Keywords: kalley

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 6381