LaserWriter: Toner cartridge life (12/96)

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TOPIC --

Why is there such a difference between the rated life of the LaserWriter toner
cartridges and the actual life that I experience?

DISCUSSION ---

It is nearly impossible to provide accurate toner cartridge life information
because there are many variables affecting the toner requirements for a
document. The formatting of the document, font type, and the inclusion of
graphics significantly change the toner requirements.

To provide information about the average life of a toner cartridge, many
manufacturers provide consumers with the expected number of pages that can be
printed assuming a specific toner density. For instance, the LaserWriter 16/600
PS toner cartridge is expected to last 6,000 pages at 5% coverage. An average
double-spaced Letter or A4 page using a single, monospaced font has a density
close to 5%. Making a simple modification to the document, such as changing the
font or making it bold, may increase the actual density value to 6% or 7%.
Changing from a double-spaced to a single-spaced format doubles the amount of
toner used.

Because most customers print a variety of different documents, the actual page
life of a toner cartridge may vary significantly. For example, with a page
density of 5%, the LaserWriter 16/600 PS has a rated life of 6,000 pages.
However, if a solid black page (100% density) is printed, then the cartridge
will run out of toner after approximately 300 pages [6,000 pages/(100%/5%)]. It
is unusual to print solid black pages during normal use so most customers will
experience a toner life somewhere between the two extremes.

Many laser printers also have the capability to adjust the toner density using a
manual adjustment or software tool such as the Apple Printer Utility. Consult
the printer's manual for more detailed information on changing the settings.

The chart below provides the approximate number of pages for the toner
cartridges in each of these LaserWriter printers listed.

Begin_Table

Printer	Part#	Yield (5% coverage)
LaserWriter Pro 810 (Extended Capacity)	M3602G/A	13,000
LaserWriter Pro 600, 630, and 16/600 PS	M2473G/A	6,000
LaserWriter 12/640 PS	M4683G/A	6,000
LaserWriter II series	M6002 (new)	4,000
	M2795G/A (remftd)	4,000
LaserWriter Select 300, 310, and 360	M1960G/A	4,000
LaserWriter and LaserWriter Plus	M0180	4,000
Personal LaserWriter LS, SC, NT, and NTR	M0089LL/A	3,000
Personal LaserWriter 300, 320, and 4/600 PS	M2045G/A	3,000
Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS	Cyan M3757G/A	4,000
	Magenta M3760G/A	4,000
	Yellow M3758G/A	4,000
	Black M3756G/A	4,000

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Article Change History:
09 Dec 1996 - Added Color LaserWriter toners.
20 Jun 1996 - Added LaserWriter 12/640 PS information.
20 May 1996 - Added table with approximate yields.

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