

Inkjet Refills

Have you ever noticed that many new printers don't cost much more than a set of replacement ink cartridges? Printer manufacturers have realized that the majority of profits can be made in the consumables. Consumables are items that get used up while operating a piece of equipment. In this case printer consumables are the ink and paper. Many printer manufacturers realize that customers only look at price when shopping for a new printer. The name of the game is to sell a printer for less than anyone else. It is not unusual to see \$49-\$79 printers while shopping for a replacement printer. However, keep in mind what that printer is going to cost you in the price of consumables. Most replacement ink jet cartridges are going to cost in the neighborhood of \$20 to \$35 each and will require a color and a black cartridge. Be sure to compare the cost per print when evaluating a new printer.

So, what can you do to keep your cost per print to a minimum? The first thing you can do is to look at how you use the printer. Assuming you do a lot of printing, what percentage of that is mostly black and white printing? Most small offices for example have very little need to print color photos or graphs. In that case, you may consider replacing or supplementing your current color inkjet printer with a monochrome laser printer. Brother and Samsung make personal laser printers that cost less than \$150. However, the cost of printing a standard page of text goes from .15 cents for inkjet printers to .03 cents a page for laser printers. Even though the initial cost of the laser printer is two to three times that of an inkjet printer, the total cost of ownership is much less. A home or office that prints a couple of dozen pages a day would quickly see an overall savings in their printing costs.

If however it is not practical to switch to a laser printer you may want to consider using remanufactured ink cartridges or even refill your own. Most printer manufacturers will warn against the use of using remanufactured inkjet cartridges. Many companies will void the printer's warranty if they find a remanufactured cartridge in their printer so be sure to put factory certified cartridge back in if you ever have to send the printer in for repair. In my experience remanufactured cartridges do no harm to printers, however I have noticed that print quality is not always as good as the original.

I personally do not like the self re-fill kits that are available on the market. I have tried several times to refill my own cartridges only to have to clean up a big ink spill inside the printer.

No matter how you decide to replace your inkjet cartridges I urge you to not throw away the old ones. Many companies keep these out of the landfills by remanufacturing them. In fact I urge you to bring them to my shop. The Knox North Lions Club has placed a recycling bin in my office. The money they make by recycling these cartridges goes straight back to our community. The Lions club supports our community by providing eyeglass and other projects for less fortunate families.

. If you have technology related questions or need to have your computer repaired by a qualified computer technician call Thomas, Roger or Aaron at the Computer Depot, 947-0749. Also, don't forget Tennessee's first tax-free weekend will be this weekend, August 4th-6th. We have a huge assortment of new and used desktop and laptop computers that will all be tax-free that Friday and Saturday.