



GET THE FACTS!

The Truth about Remanufactured Cartridges and Environmental Sustainability

Do you know the ecological impact of the imaging supplies you purchase? Use this true / false guide to get the facts about remanufactured cartridges and their effect on the environment.

Remanufactured imaging supplies reduce landfill waste.

TRUE

Each discarded laser cartridge adds approximately 2.5 pounds of metal and plastic waste to our landfills - waste that will take as long as 1,000 years to decompose.¹ It is estimated that 100 million laser printer cartridges and 400 million inkjet printer cartridges are produced each year. Remanufacturing these 500 million cartridges will save an estimated four million cubic feet of landfill space.

Remanufactured ink and toner cartridges conserve non-renewable natural resources.

TRUE

Remanufactured cartridges dramatically reduce the consumption of ecologically-damaging fossil fuels. The plastic in each new laser toner cartridge takes 3.5 quarts of oil to produce while each new inkjet cartridge requires 2.5 ounces of oil.²

Best Foot Forward was recently commissioned by the Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse³ to study the carbon footprint of a remanufactured mono toner printer cartridge versus a new cartridge. Their study found that the CO2 emissions for a new cartridge were almost 2.5 times the emissions produced from a remanufactured cartridge.

All remanufacturers produce overseas, negating any fossil fuel conservation.

FALSE

Closely read the label on the back of the cartridge's box to see where it is manufactured. Many remanufacturers choose to have their production facilities in North America. This enables them to conserve fossil fuels through a shorter supply chain, closely monitor product quality and streamline their remanufacturing and recycling processes.

Remanufacturing is the most environmentally responsible choice.

TRUE

When a cartridge is remanufactured, it is reused. Reusing a discarded product is the highest form of environmental responsibility. It is superior to recycling in that it doesn't use non-renewable resources to breakdown plastic and metal. A cartridge and all its components should always first be evaluated for refurbishment. If refurbishment is not possible then responsible recycling should be pursued.

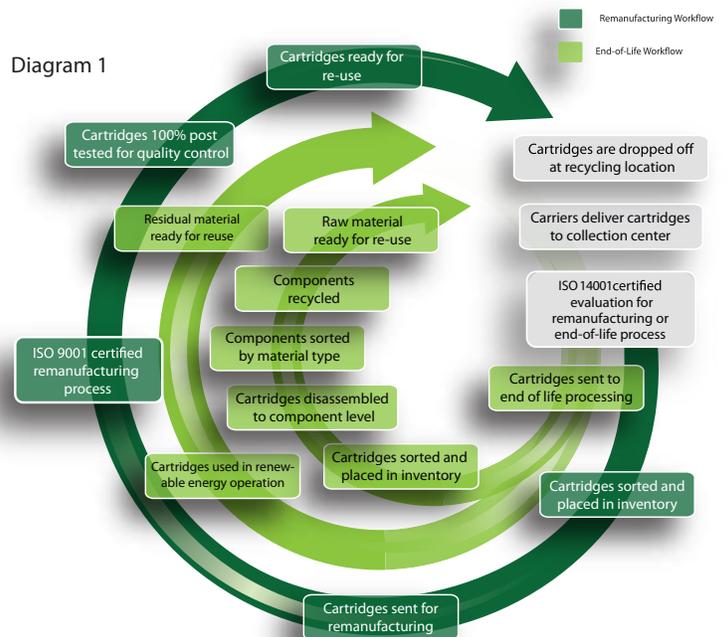
This stance is echoed by multiple government agencies including the U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies has stated that although the recycling of toner cartridges does have a number of benefits, remanufacturing is a superior choice, both environmentally and economically.⁴ In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency's Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) recommends that procuring agencies establish procedures and policies that give priority to remanufacturing the agencies' expended toner cartridges.⁵

Empty cartridges that cannot be remanufactured are dumped into landfills.

FALSE

Every empty cartridge we receive is evaluated; first for refurbishment and secondarily for material recovery through recycling. A remanufacturable cartridge is disassembled and as many components as possible are reused. Cartridges that are non-remanufacturable are disassembled, sorted into material types and recycled. This Closed-Loop Environmental Process (see Diagram 1) ensures that every component of the empty cartridges collected is either remanufactured or recycled.

Diagram 1



Remanufactured cartridges don't perform as well as OEM cartridges.

FALSE

Our remanufactured cartridges are produced to stringent quality control standards, using lab-tested components to ensure consistent OEM-equivalent performance. Every empty cartridge that is collected for remanufacturing is thoroughly inspected, cleaned and rebuilt before it rolls off the production line.

1 International Imaging Technology Council, <http://www.consumerchoice.info/faq.htm>, October 2008.
 2 Recharger Magazine.
 3 From a 2008 independent study performed by Best Foot Forward and commissioned by Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse.
 4 "Greening the Government," U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/greengov.pdf>
 5 Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/tools/cpg/index.htm>, October 2008

