

The Scoop On Refills

A lot of my customers either refill their own ink and toner cartridges or will buy refilled ones. Some swear by them and others simply tolerate them because they are “cheaper.” Having been an HP trained service technician I can tell you that in most cases the price difference is simply not worth it. Following are several reasons I tell people to stay away from rebuilt cartridges.

Over the years I have cleaned a lot of printers that were damaged by a leaking rebuilt cartridge. These rebuilt cartridges usually have about a 30% failure rate and when they fail they can cause a lot of damage to the printer. A good cleaning will typically cost you between \$50 and \$100 depending on the type of printer.

Secondly, the print quality of a rebuilt cartridge is not as good as their new counterparts. The cartridges either print faint, have smears or streaks on them or have missing lines. Laser cartridges are especially prone to poor print quality because the developing drum inside has a limited life span and most refilling places will use these drums way beyond their expected life span.

Lastly, rebuilt cartridges don't last as long as new ones. Most times these cartridges are not refilled to full capacity to save the manufacturer money. Also many manufactures will increase the amount of toner or ink applied to the paper to compensate for the poorer quality of the ink or toner which also decreases the total output of the cartridge.

So plainly put, rebuilt cartridges are not quite the money savers they appear to be. If you want really professional print quality and cost efficiency you are better off with new cartridges. I have found that ebay is a really good source for inexpensive new cartridges - just be careful who you buy from.