Defining toner cartridges



Discover what's out there, how to spot a fake, what the potential risks are, and why Original HP Toner Cartridges stand above the rest.

CARTRIDGE TYPES

Non-HP

Any aftermarket replacement cartridge that can be used in an HP LaserJet, PageWide, or Inkjet printer.

Remanufactured

A spent HP cartridge that has been disassembled, had some parts replaced, and has been refilled with non-HP ink or toner.

Counterfeit

Labeled, packaged, and passed off in such a way that is intended to mislead a customer into thinking it is an Original HP product.

Imitation

A newly built cartridge (NBC) made with non-HP parts and toner.

HOW TO SPOT AN IMITATION

Check the price

Imitation toner cartridges can cost significantly less than Original HP and may also undercut the price of remanufactured cartridges.

Check the package

The package often states "compatible" or "new." Some may even try to pass as remanufactured. Check for "country of origin," "made in," or "assembled in" country. If you don't see a country listed, it's likely an imitation.

Check the brand

Imitation cartridge manufacturers may sell products under their own brand or under another company's brand.

Check the description

You may find words such as "premium," "premium compatible," or "premium toner cartridge" on the packaging or in the product description.

Examine the cartridge

Compare side-by-side with an Original HP Cartridge. Look for variations in plastic color or cartridge shape.



ORIGINAL HP

A new cartridge designed, manufactured, and distributed by HP or our Partners and optimized for use in HP-branded devices.

At every step of the process, security is built in with tamper-resistant chips, firmware, and packaging for Original HP office cartridges.[1]

For use by HP or Partner with customers. Not for public posting or use. Can be left behind.



Additional definitions

Aftermarket

The market for replacement cartridges for use in HP LaserJet or Inkjet printers. Aftermarket cartridges are made by third-party manufacturers that have no affiliation with HP.

Branded aftermarket cartridge

A replacement cartridge produced by a third party and sold to end users under the seller's own brand name.

Compatible

A term that may refer to any third-party cartridge that works with an HP printer.

Continuous Ink Supply System (CISS)

A method for delivering a large volume of liquid ink to a comparatively small inkjet printhead. Ink is contained in large tanks that are connected either directly to the printhead or via tubes to cartridges. Other terms include: continuous flow system, automatic ink refill system, bulk feed ink system, or an off-axis ink delivery system.

Empty cartridge

An empty HP Ink or Toner Cartridge that might be used by the aftermarket. It can also be referred to as a "core" or "hulk."

Intellectual Property (IP)

Protecting the rights of a person or company who has invented something that other people want to use or profit from. Intellectual property status of remanufactured and imitation cartridges can be unclear; it is recommended that resellers check with the manufacturer, distributor, and/or legal counsel.

Private-label (PL) aftermarket cartridge

An aftermarket cartridge produced by a third party, then bought and branded by another company that then sells it to end customers.

Refilled

A cartridge that is refilled with non-HP ink or toner and resealed. Sometimes, other components in addition to the marking substance may also be replaced. The previously used cartridge could be either an HP or a non-HP cartridge.

Remanufacturer

A third-party company that remanufactures used Original HP Ink or Toner Cartridges.

Substitute or replacement cartridge

General terms that refer to any third-party cartridge that works with an HP printer. These terms are too general to help a customer understand the type of cartridge (i.e., remanufactured, NBC, or refill)

Virgin empty

An empty ink or toner cartridge that has never been remanufactured or refilled. Most remanufacturers prefer to use virgin empties because the more times a cartridge is remanufactured, the greater the risk of reliability and print quality problems.

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[1] HP office-class printing systems are select Enterprise and Managed devices with FutureSmart firmware 4.5 and up, Pro devices, LaserJet models 200 and up, with respective Original HP Toner, PageWide, and Ink Cartridges. Does not include HP integrated printhead cartridges. Digital supply-chain tracking, hardware, chips, and packaging security features vary locally by SKU. See hp.com/cartridgesecurity.

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