



Cartridge Recycling

Printer cartridges are made up of a complex combination of plastics, metals, foam, ink and toner. Throwing them into landfill represents a waste of resources and contributes to the growing problem of electronic waste. By recycling your cartridges you are helping to reduce this waste.

Why Recycle Printer Cartridges?

Some of the environmental benefits of recycling your cartridges include:

- **Diverting waste from landfill.** Over 38 million cartridges have been diverted from landfill through 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'.
- **Recovering resources.** By collecting cartridges and sending them for reprocessing or recycling we recover plastics, metals and inks that can then be used to make new products.
- **Saving water and energy.** In most cases, making products from recycled materials uses less water and energy than making them from new materials.
- **Reducing greenhouse gases.** Based on a life cycle analysis of Close the Loop's processes, the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' program has prevented over 160,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases from being released into the atmosphere.



Cartridges 4 Planet Ark collection box

About 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'

'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' is an innovative recycling program that provides Australians with a free, easy and environmentally-accredited way to recycle their used printer cartridges.

All printer consumables (including inkjet and toner cartridges, toner bottles, fuser and drum units) can be recycled through the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' program.

The participating brands are Brother, Canon, Epson, HP, Konica Minolta and Kyocera. These leading cartridge manufacturers are involved in the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' program and pay for its running costs including the collection, transport, sorting and recycling of the cartridges.

Participating Brands – Taking responsibility for our cartridges



What Happens To The Printer Cartridges?

All of the printer cartridges put into a 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' box are sent to Planet Ark's recycling partner, Close the Loop®, in Melbourne. Once there, they are hand sorted and their brand and type recorded. Some of the laser cartridges are returned to the original equipment manufacturers for their own remanufacturing and recovery programs. All of the remaining cartridges are processed through the Close the Loop® 'Green Machine'.

- Toner is used to make TonerPave™ road surfaces.
- Inks are recycled and reused in low grade printing applications.
- Clean plastic streams are reused in various applications or made into 90% recycled EnviroLiner felt tip pens.
- Metals are extracted and made into new products.
- All other materials and contaminated plastics are recycled into eWood™ – a timber-replacement product used to make items such as outdoor furniture, fencing and garden edging.



'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark ambassador Layne Beachley on a TonerPave road

Take Action

Recycling cartridges is simple:

1. From Home: Cartridges cannot be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin. They can be taken to one of our retail collection partners, including all Officeworks and JB Hi-Fi stores and participating Australia Post, Harvey Norman, The Good Guys, Office National and Office Depot Products outlets. To find a drop off point, visit RecyclingNearYou.com.au/Cartridges or call the Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712.
2. At Work: If your workplace uses more than 3 cartridges per month (or 36 in the year), you may be eligible to have a workplace collection box. To find out more visit <http://cartridges.planetark.org/workplace/> or call the Cartridges Hotline on 1800 242 473.

More Information

['Cartridges for Planet Ark' website](#)

[Close the Loop website](#)

Planet Ark Environmental Foundation

RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org

RECYCLING HOTLINE 1300 733 712



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