

Printer cartridge recycling

Cartridge recycling

What happens to your printer cartridges when they run out of ink? Where do they go? Can you refill them? Does your school recycle them?

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

Some of the environmental benefits of recycling cartridges are:

- Keeping waste out of landfill
- Recovering resources to reuse
- Saving water and energy
- Reducing greenhouse gases.



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®. Once there, they are hand sorted and some are returned to their original manufacturers. The remaining cartridges are processed by the special 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; and
- 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).

For more information on how you can help our environment, or to make some suggestions of your own, please go to www.coolaustralia.org



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How many cartridges are recycled in Australia?

Total returns in weight and numbers for each of the past 10 years

	Items	Weight (kgs)
2003	159,326	92,161
2004	598,753	358,804
2005	1,275,784	652,792
2006	1,672,202	776,164
2007	2,114,641	928,363
2008	2,640,942	1,166,890
2009	2,678,176	1,307,109
2010	2,754,737	1,340,842
2011	2,997,411	1,390,618
2012	3,262,393	1,431,086
2013	3,214,505	1,229,111
2014	1,657,062	602,014

For 2013 total number and total weight for each state

	Items	Weight (kgs)
ACT	77,844	36,287.50
NSW	946,602	354,935.57
NT	25,910	11,105.20
QLD	425,224	153,233.50
SA	321,505	107,269.64
TAS	43,311	12,101.26
VIC	940,938	353,471.16
WA	351,173	133,773.72
N/A (unlabelled Retail bags)	81,998	66,933.45

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Where can I recycle my cartridges?

'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' is a program that helps schools and homes recycle their cartridges. This program collects and returns cartridges - therefore keeping them out of landfill.

Why not get a box at your school?

To find your nearest drop off point, visit RecyclingNearYou.com.au/Cartridges or call the Cartridges Hotline on 1800 24 24 73

More Information - RecyclingNearYou.com.au/Cartridges



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