



Remanufactured Toner Cartridges

August 2009

For government purchasers

Publication No. 13-07-001

Responsible Purchasing Attributes

- Energy efficiency
- Reduce greenhouse emissions
- Reduce toxic chemicals
- Recyclable

Benefits of Purchasing

- Fewer resources sent to the landfill.
- Less energy is wasted.
- Fewer greenhouse gasses emitted.
- Significant cost savings.

How to Buy

Remanufactured toner cartridges are available on State Contract #[09205](#).

Goal: Encourage the purchase of remanufactured toner cartridges to save money and reduce waste.

Each year, in the U.S. about 350 million toner and inkjet cartridges are used in laser printers, fax machines, and copiers. When they run out of toner, they are usually sent to either landfills or incinerators.

Toner cartridges are nearly 100 percent recyclable. The typical spent cartridge is composed of 40 percent plastic, 40 percent metal, and small amounts of rubber, paper, foam, and toner.

Remanufacturing toner cartridges saves money and natural resources. Spent toner cartridges are refurbished and the toner is refilled. On a per copy basis, they typically cost 30 - 60 percent less than new cartridges.

According to the [Responsible Purchasing Network](#), an estimated 2,000 cartridge remanufacturers in the U.S. produce over 27 million remanufactured toner cartridges each year. With an average weight of three pounds, this represents a significant reduction in the waste stream.

Buying locally remanufactured toner and inkjet cartridges is an easy way for government agencies to close the loop on toner cartridges, save substantial tax dollars, and keep local dollars circulating within the state's economy.

Standards

Specifications on contracts should require that remanufactured toner cartridges equal or exceed the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) cartridge standards for quality and performance standards.

They should also meet or exceed the latest remanufactured toner cartridge standards or the guidelines adopted by the Standardized Test Methods Committee (STMC), the [American Society for Testing and Materials \(ASTM\)](#), and the [International Safe Transit Association \(ISTA\)](#).



Photo courtesy of Imation

Leading the Way - Washington State

Washington State has purchased remanufactured toner cartridges since 2005. In fiscal year 2008, the state saved \$7,864,245 by buying remanufactured toner cartridges.

An additional \$1,052,386 could have been saved if all agencies purchased remanufactured, rather than new cartridges.

Toner cartridges purchased without using the state contract could represent more potential savings.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The Department of Ecology offers tools and resources to make environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) easier.

Learn about environmentally preferable products, standards and certifications, state EPP directives, and more at our website:

<http://ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/epp/>

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Resources

Alameda County Fact Sheet [Remanufactured Toner Cartridges](#)

King County Environmental Purchasing Bulletin for [Toner Cartridges](#)

[Responsible Purchasing Network](#)

State of California Green California Best Practices Manual for [Toner Cartridges](#)

Product Performance

Remanufactured toner cartridges offer equivalent quality and performance when compared to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) standards.

Nearly all suppliers will guarantee the quality of their remanufactured toner cartridges. By federal law, the use of remanufactured toner cartridges cannot be the basis for voiding manufacturer equipment warranties on printers and copiers.

Many agencies lease printing services as a way to save money and get better services. If leasing, require the vendor to use only remanufactured toner cartridges and recycle them at the end-of-life.

Contracts for remanufactured toner cartridges should require vendors to provide a pre-paid mailing label for return of cartridges at the end of the product's useful life.

End of Life

Remanufactured toner cartridges are sent back to vendors at the end-of-life. This keeps the cartridges out of the landfill and reduces the need for raw materials for manufacturing.

Using remanufactured toner cartridges saves energy. Approximately three quarts of oil are burned in the production of a single toner cartridge. A used toner cartridge can be remanufactured up to four times, potentially saving up to three gallons of oil.



Photo courtesy of Imation

Laws and Directives

<p>Executive Order 02-03 Sustainable Practices by State Agencies</p>	<p>Requires sustainable practices by state agencies. This includes practices that do not sacrifice the needs of future generations.</p>
<p>Executive Order 04-01 Persistent Toxic Chemicals</p>	<p>Directs state agencies to adopt measures to reduce the use of equipment, supplies, and other products that contain persistent toxic chemicals.</p>

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