

# Cartridge Recycling



NATIONAL  
RECYCLING WEEK  
**PLANET ARK**

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 24 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 110,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases from being released into the atmosphere.

## Where Can I Recycle My Cartridges?

Planet Ark has joined with our retail collection partners to make recycling the cartridges you use at home as easy as possible. They can be taken to all Officeworks and JB Hi-Fi stores and participating Australia Post, Dick Smith, Tandy, Harvey Norman, The Good Guys, Office National and Office Depot Products outlets. To find your nearest drop off point, visit [RecyclingNearYou.com.au/Cartridges](http://RecyclingNearYou.com.au/Cartridges) or call the Cartridges Hotline on 1800 24 24 73.

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, call the Cartridges Hotline on 1800 24 24 73.

Cartridges cannot be recycled in your household recycling bin. As cartridges are made from many different materials, they have to be

## Factsheet



How do you recycle computers, corks, cartridges and cans?

For information on council services and drop-off locations in your area... visit



RecyclingNearYou  
.com.au

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1300 733 712

manually separated into their different components and they are not suited to the collection systems and sorting facilities used by councils.

## 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.

## About 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'

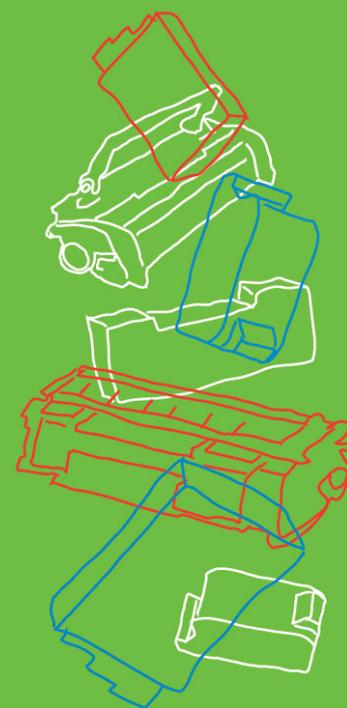
'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' is an innovative recycling program that provides Australians with a free, easy and environmentally-accredited way to recycle their used printer cartridges.

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.

## More Information

['Cartridges for Planet Ark' website](#)  
[Close the Loop website](#)



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**Planet Ark  
Environmental  
Foundation**

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