Spotlight on Certified Remanufactured Cartridges
By: Courtney Carroll Estelow
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Many have tried refilled cartridges in an attempt to save money and help the environment with disappointing results since this idea emerged decades ago. Unfortunately, for the aftermarket industry, as it is called, this stigma of unreliability follows it to this day. The top remanufacturing companies in the world spend much time and money developing processes and regulations to improve the quality of remanufactured cartridges. Companies and individuals around the country want to save money and "go green," but are hesitant in making the switch to certified remanufactured cartridges. Many consumers do not know what is meant by a "certified remanufactured cartridge." Many wonder what happens to cartridges that cannot be remanufactured. Furthermore, consumers have questions about print quality, reliability and voiding printer warranties. In the next three sections you will find answers to these questions and more.

Part 1: Frequently Asked Questions

What is a remanufactured cartridge? Remanufactured cartridges have been recycled and reprocessed from an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) empty core. The process differs by manufacturer and materials. Remanufactured cartridges are produced to stringent quality control standards, using lab-tested components to ensure consistent OEM-equivalent performance.

Is a remanufactured cartridge inferior to a new one? There should be no difference in print quality or page yield with a properly certified remanufactured cartridge. Certified remanufactured cartridges contain only quality ink and toners formulated to meet OEM performance.

What if I experience a print quality issue? Certified remanufactured cartridges come with guarantees. If a cartridge does not meet expectations, simply notify a customer service representative and return the cartridge.

Will using remanufactured cartridges void my equipment warranty? Law prohibits manufacturers from voiding their warranty obligations on the grounds that a consumer did not use the original manufacturer's replacement cartridge.

Why don't more businesses recycle? Basically, this is due to lack of education. The aftermarket industry works diligently to educate consumers about the value of remanufactured cartridges and the technological advancements of the remanufacturing process.

Am I really helping the environment by using remanufactured cartridges? Yes. Each discarded cartridge adds approximately three pounds of unnecessary waste to our landfills – that will take 1,000 years to decompose. It is estimated 100 million laser and 400 million inkjet cartridges are produced each year using 382 million quarts of oil. Remanufacturing these cartridges will save an estimated four million cubic feet of landfill space and 95.3 million gallons of oil.

Part 2: Remanufacturing Process

Each cartridge goes through a visual inspection. Ink cartridges are electronically tested to ensure they pass inspection.

All empty cartridges are sorted and graded. Only premium empty cartridges are used to ensure optimal quality. Each ink cartridge is robotically opened, contents cleaned and inner foam removed. All laser cartridge components are disassembled and recycled.

Highly trained technicians clean each ink cartridge of remaining waste ink with custom-designed high capacity cleaning systems. Empty laser cartridges are carefully disassembled and cleaned using a state-of-the-art process.

Using proprietary filling techniques and custom-built filling machinery, each ink cartridge is filled to OEM specifications with custom formulated ink. Each laser cartridge, using automated filling equipment, is precisely filled to the exact specified weight. Premium toners are technically matched for optimal yields and printer performance.

A sophisticated sealing process ensures a leak-proof cartridge and a clean installation for the customer.

Factory-trained technicians assemble all laser cartridges with OEM grade compatible components. The assembly process includes the installation of a pre-qualified drum, wiper blade, doctor blade, primary charge roller and magnetic roller.

Every cartridge is post tested, utilizing industry standard print tests to ensure outstanding performance and quality. As a second level of quality control, two statistical checks are performed.

All cartridges receive a final inspection to ensure they conform to stringent quality standards. Cartridges are cleaned, polished, heat-sealed in a static-resistant or vapor-resistant bag and boxed.

Work-in-progress undergoes regular and spot inspections by dedicated Quality Control experts to ensure products meet the expectations of the consumer.

Part 3: End-of Life Cartridge Grinding Process

Cartridges that do not qualify for remanufacturing are called end-of-life units. End-of-life units are disassembled. Cartridge components are sorted for recycling. Cartridge plastic is inducted into a grinder to produce plastic regrind. New product is created utilizing this plastic regrind.

Desire to save money, help the environment and produce quality print jobs is not likely to diminish. As time passes and more are educated on the lengths the remanufacturing industry goes through to produce reliable quality products, the industry is likely to grow. The aftermarket industry has made a positive impact on the environment and the economy by reducing waste, reusing products and saving customers money. Perhaps more companies and individuals will “go greener” by buying certified remanufactured cartridges and joining the aftermarket’s efforts to support the economy and save those 95.3 million gallons of oil each year.

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Caboodle Cartridge, a Corsica River Watershed Certified Green Business and 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year for the Queen Anne’s County Chamber of Commerce, is Maryland’s resource for certified remanufactured cartridges. www.doyoucaboodle.com
Contact Courtney Estelow: 410-758-0300 or Courtney@doyoucaboodle.com.