

## INKJET CARTRIDGE CARE

### Inserting and Removing the Inkjet Cartridge

The cartridge should stay in the printer at all times except when it is being replaced or cleaned. The cartridge should never be shaken or dropped.

### Cleaning the Print Head

One of the most critical paths to good print output is maintenance of the inkjet cartridge. During printing, ink can build up on the cartridge, causing ink spray in the text. Paper fibers and dust can also build up on the cartridge, degrading the print quality. Proper cartridge maintenance will allow the inkjet cartridge to produce good print quality. Use a moist 100% cotton, high-density cloth with no chemical additives to wipe the nozzles.

The cloth must be soft so that it does not scratch the cartridge. Scratches on the cartridge prevent the ink from coming out of the nozzle straight. If the ink does not come out of the nozzle straight, it will cause fuzzy text and graphics. During

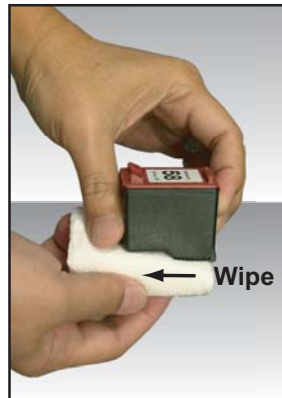


Figure 1

wiping, the water cleans out the nozzles and the firing chambers. The direction and force of the wipe is also important to note. During wiping, harmful particles on the top of the cartridge can be wiped into the nozzles if wiping is not done carefully. It is important to wipe as shown in the above photo. The cartridge should be pointing down while it is being wiped (see figure 1).

A large amount of pressure is not necessary to clean the particles off of the inkjet cartridge. A large amount of pressure can actually cause particles to scratch the cartridge. Scratches can cause the nozzles to fire in improper directions. It is very important to always be gentle when cleaning the cartridge.

It is also important to keep the electrical interconnects of the cartridge clean (see figure 2). The interconnect pads can be cleaned with a moist cotton wipe or a moist Q-Tip. It is important to make sure that the contacts of the cartridge are dry before it is re-inserted into the printer.

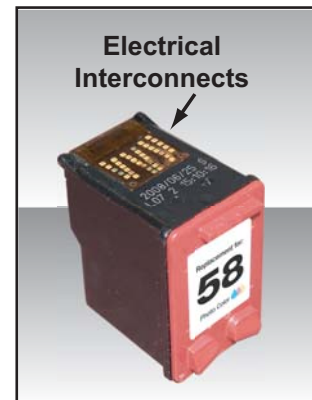


Figure 2

If the cartridge sits inactive for a period of time, ink may dry in the nozzles. As a result of the dry ink, white streaks will be visible in the printed text or graphic. Printing alone may not clear the nozzles. To obtain better print quality, clean the print head. This is accomplished by wiping the nozzle plate until ink is drawn out and absorbed into the moist cloth. Then print a few lines of text or graphics at high resolution.

Wiping the cartridge with a wet cloth should be done after every extended period of downtime in order to prevent unacceptable levels of print quality. Print a few lines of text in a higher resolution (for example, 600x600 dpi). The higher resolutions (for example, 600 dpi) exercise more nozzles and push out more ink.