

INK AND TONER CARTRIDGES

Every year Australians throw away more than 18 million ink and toner cartridges. That's equal to about 5,000 tonnes of rubbish going to landfill. Some of these cartridges contain hazardous substances that are harmful to the environment. Materials such as toner dust and inks can leak into our waterways from

landfill, causing these waterways to become polluted. When cartridges are recycled, the valuable metals and plastics they are made of are made into new cartridges and other useful products; however, if they are not recycled, more natural resources must be used to make new ones.

WHAT CAN I DO?

At home, take empty cartridges to your nearest participating *Australia Post* or *Harvey Norman* store and drop them into one of the specially marked boxes. Your cartridges will be sent off to be remanufactured and used again, or broken down and recycled into new products.

Some manufacturers will take back your used cartridges for refill, giving them a longer life (and saving you money) before finally recycling them.

For schools, *School Communities Recycling All Paper* (SCRAP) has a **take back toner cartridges scheme**, designed to reuse and recycle cartridges and raise money for participating schools.

For businesses and organisations (including schools), *Planet Ark* has a scheme that enables you to have a collection box in your building and your ink and toner cartridges collected free of charge.

MORE INFORMATION

- Recycling 4 planet ark – 1800 24 24 73
- www.planetark.org – environmental news and information
- www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/cartridges.html – cartridge recycling search engine
- www.scrapltd.com.au - Check out the SCRAP website for toner and paper recycling information.
- Look in the yellow pages under 'computer equipment supplies' for cartridge reuse businesses