



# Tech Info Library

## LaserWriter: Shelf Life of Toner Cartridge (11/95)

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TOPIC -----

What is the shelf life of LaserWriter toner cartridges?

DISCUSSION -----

The shelf life of LaserWriter toner cartridges is approximately 2 years. The end label of each toner cartridge has an expiration date:

Use Before 19XX."

The two-year shelf life of the cartridge is designed to ensure that the print quality will meet Apple's specifications for the expected life of the cartridge.

In other words, the cartridge should be able to withstand storage under the conditions specified on the toner cartridge box and then be able to meet print quality specifications for the rated life of the cartridge.

Since all of our toner cartridges ship in airtight and light-proof bags they are protected from light, humidity, and chemicals such as ammonia-based cleaners that might shorten the life of the cartridge. The one environmental variable that can be controlled is the temperature. Room temperature (+/- 10 degrees F) is an ideal storage environment.

Over time toner tends to settle in the toner bin and may form clumps. These clumps may affect the print quality if they are not broken up prior to use. If you are going to store cartridges beyond the normal shelf life, you should occasionally rock the toner cartridges back and forth to help redistribute the toner and break up any clumps that may be forming. There is no recommended guideline for this, but every six months should be sufficient.

Apple cannot guarantee that the print quality will meet the Apple specifications if the cartridges are stored beyond their normal shelf life.

Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS Shelf Life

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The shelf life of the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS toner cartridge is also 2 years. There is a date code imprinted on each cartridge's box and consists of 6 alphanumeric characters. The first character indicates the last digit of the

year, and the second character provides the month that the cartridge was produced. The month date codes are as follows:

- A = January
- B = February
- C = March
- D = April
- E = May
- F = June
- G = July
- H = August
- I = September
- J = October
- K = November
- L = December

Toner Life  
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For information on how long toner cartridges last once they are installed in a LaserWriter printer, look in the Tech Info Library for the article titled "LaserWriter: Toner Cartridge Life".

Article Change History:

- 16 Nov 95 - Added Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS information.
- 05 Apr 93 - Revised to include additional information.
- 03 Feb 93 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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