Fax Cartridge Recycling

Ricoh’s Fax Toner Cartridge Return Program brings UofM further into the conservation fold.

The fax toner cartridges can be easily returned postage-paid to our recycling center - a facility that itself generates zero waste and has been ISO 9002 certified for quality management and ISO 14001 certified for environmental management. By recycling, we recover 95 - 100% of the cartridge's total weight.

This practice not only keeps plastics out of landfills, it conserves the materials and energy it would take to make new cartridges.

Since 1997 Ricoh has recovered and recycled 74.0 million cartridge parts.

Why Recycle Cartridges?

- Waste adds up. Every year in the U.S over 300 million cartridges are thrown away, contributing to over 200 million pounds of solid waste to our nation's overcrowded landfills.
- Stacked end to end, cartridges thrown away in one year would cover a distance of over 24,000 miles -- enough to circle the earth.
- Landfills, many of which are filled to capacity, run the risk of polluting the surrounding ecosystems, especially groundwater supplies.
- Plastics sent to landfills can take between 200 and 400 years to degrade.
- Only three percent of plastic waste is currently recycled.
- Recycled plastics can be used to manufacture everything from clothing to lumber substitutes.

How do you identify a Ricoh recyclable cartridge?
Most returnable cartridges will have Ricoh's own Eco Label on the outside of the packing box. Inside will be two pre-paid shipping labels. Customers have the choice of using either FedEx or UPS.

Where are used cartridges sent?

They are returned to our manufacturing and recycling center -- Ricoh Electronics, Inc, a zero waste to landfill facility, which is ISO 14001 certified for environmental management and ISO 9002 certified for quality management. Ricoh Electronics is recognized by the State of California as a top waste reduction environmental company.

Will returned cartridges be refilled?

No, we never refill our cartridges. There is no guarantee that refilled cartridges won't also end up in landfills. Moreover, we cannot be assured that a refilled cartridge will perform up to our standards of quality. Therefore, each Ricoh cartridge is disassembled, and designated part items are meticulously cleaned, inspected and tested. Only those items meeting stringent guidelines are used in manufacturing a new cartridge in the same plant. The remaining items that cannot be re-used are sent to material recovery partners.