Study confirms: remanufacturing doesn’t prevent cartridges from ending up in a landfill

InfoTrends, a leading market research company, conducted a study¹ to determine ink and toner cartridge collection, reuse, and recycling practices of remanufacturers and brokers. While most customers think they are helping the environment by purchasing remanufactured cartridges, the fact is, nearly 90% end up in a landfill. Remanufacturers only take back a small fraction of their own products, so the customer ends up throwing them away.

Typically remanufactured only once

Remanufacturing doesn’t always prevent cartridges from ending up in landfills. Remanufacturers only want OEM cartridges that have been used once because they have a lower defect rate and are less costly to produce.

Recycling process

Remanufacturing is not the same as recycling and most remanufacturers do not have a recycling process. 25% of ink and 40% of toner cartridges that remanufacturers accept but can’t use will go to a landfill.

Almost all imitations are thrown away

Remanufacturers don’t even want newly built imitation cartridges. In fact, 96% of cheap knock-offs will get tossed. In addition, these manufacturers typically make no effort to collect their cartridges at end of life.

Help make a difference with HP

HP makes it free and easy to recycle your used cartridges through the HP Planet Partners recycling program. All cartridges returned to HP Planet Partners go through a multi-phase recycling process and none go to a landfill. Program availability varies. For details, see hp.com/recycle.

¹ Use of any claims must reference InfoTrends, 2018 North America Supplies Recycling study, commissioned by HP. Findings are based on average results of interviews with 7 remanufacturers, 2 NBC manufacturers, 3 empty collectors, and 3 distributors. See hp.com/go/NA-2018InfoTrends.