MONOCHROME DEVELOPER ROLLER CLEANERS… NOT ALL ARE CREATED EQUAL

By Mike Josiah and the Technical Staff at UniNet

Reusing developer rollers is a smart way to keep your bill of material costs down on non-magnetic type toner cartridges (monochrome Brother, Samsung, Lexmark, etc.).

Most monochrome non-magnetic toner systems use rubber developer rollers, and most developer rollers these days have some type of conductive sleeve or coating on them. With this type of system, the toner can leave a buildup of chemicals on the roller. Typically this buildup is from charge and flow agents in the toner. In severe cases you can actually see a bluish or white coating on the roller. This buildup can cause light print, but can also, depending on the cartridge type, cause backgrounding and ghosting.

Isopropyl alcohol can be used to remove the buildup, but has a tendency to also remove at least part of the conductive coating. This might not show up right away, but will most likely result in a light printing cartridge somewhere during the next cycle. It should be noted that most chemical cleaners (other alcohols, rubber roller/platen cleaners etc) are NOT suited for cleaning these rollers.

UniNet has gone through almost a year of life testing, not only to make sure that our cleaner worked well, but also that there was no type of chemical reaction between the cleaner, conductive coating, and the toners used. In some early tests of other cleaners, the rollers cleaned well and printed fine initially, but after storing the cartridge on the shelf for a month or so, the doctor blade and developer roller had fused together into one part never to be separated. Imagine the noise and damage that would have made when installed in a printer!

A true **dedicated developer roller cleaner** will remove all the buildups, and leave the conductive coating on the roller alone. This way the roller can print clean and dark again, for a full cycle. It also does not cause any chemical reactions when the cartridge is stored for any period of time - a very important, but often overlooked factor.

HOW TO USE A UNINET DEDICATED DEVELOPER ROLLER CLEANING SOLUTION
1. Using the cleaner is easy. Place a small amount on a lint free cloth.
2. Wipe the roller down using a small amount of force.
3. Once you have cleaned the roller completely, flip the cloth over and using the wet part, and clean the roller again. That's it! The roller will dry almost instantly, and you have a clean ready to use roller!

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