



Printer Not Printing Black Ink – Troubleshooting Checklist



Before replacing your printer or calling a technician, go through this quick checklist. Many black ink printing problems can be fixed in just a few minutes.

Print this checklist and follow each step one by one.

Basic Checks

- Restart the printer and computer
 - Make sure the printer has enough black ink
 - Confirm the black cartridge is installed correctly
 - Remove any protective tape from a new cartridge
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Quick Diagnostic Tests

- Print a **printer test page**
 - Run a **nozzle check pattern** from the maintenance menu
 - Look for missing or broken black lines in the test print
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Cleaning and Maintenance

- Run **one printhead cleaning cycle**
 - Wait 5–10 minutes before printing again
 - Run a second cleaning cycle if necessary
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Cartridge Inspection

- Remove the black cartridge
 - Check for dried ink on the nozzle
 - Clean the cartridge contacts gently with a dry cloth
 - Reinstall the cartridge securely
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Printer Settings Check

- Open **Printer Preferences**
 - Disable color-only printing mode
 - Enable the option to use the black cartridge
 - Make sure the correct paper type is selected
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Advanced Checks

- Try a different black cartridge
 - Update the printer driver
 - Restart the printer with the power cable unplugged for 60 seconds
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If the Problem Still Exists

- Run a **deep printhead cleaning**
 - Check if the printhead is clogged or damaged
 - Consider replacing the cartridge or printhead
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Pro Tip:

Most cases where a printer stops printing black ink are caused by **clogged printhead nozzles or empty cartridges**. Running a nozzle check and one cleaning cycle solves the issue for many users.

If your printer is producing **completely blank pages instead of missing black ink**, read this guide: [*How to Fix Printer Printing Blank Pages*](#)

Printer Not Printing Black Ink – Troubleshooting Flowchart



 **Check Black Ink Cartridge**



 **Empty cartridge**

Replace cartridge

 **Run Nozzle Check Test**




Step 2. Run Nozzle Check Test

 **Broken black lines**




Step 3. Clean the Printhead



Possible clogged printhead

Step 4. Check Printer Settings

 **Color-only mode enabled**

Disable color-only mode

Step 5. Check Printer Settings

 **Color-only mode**


Disable color-only mode

Step 6. Inspect Cartridge Installation

 **Incorrect installation**

Reinstall cartridge

Step 6. Possible Printhead Damage

 **Repair or replace printhead or printer**