

Home Printer Recommendations - Infrequent Use

We currently have a Brother MFC j475dw for our home printer. The problem is, we use it very infrequently. Often, when we go to use it, the ink has dried up or it says that it is empty, despite not really having been used much.

Any recommendations on a home printer that will keep ink between infrequent uses? Black and white ink only would be fine. I don't really care about scan/copy/fax options.

If black and you white only, why not get a laser printer? You'll never have to worry about ink drying up again.

Jerry W. Cain, Jr., Georgia

I second the laser printer recommendation.

Michael J. Sweeney, Connecticut

My recommendation:

1. Never buy an inkjet printer.
2. Laser printers are inexpensive and a better option.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

Thanks for all the feedback. I was unaware that laser printers use toner which will not dry up. We will be purchasing a laser printer once we complete our move to Florida.

Brian C. Hagner

There are many inexpensive laser printers out there, but the cost of toner cartridges can vary greatly. This should be a factor in deciding which printer to buy.

Andrew C. McDannold

I fully agree that you should look at costs to print. One reference point I have relied on is [printershowcase.com](https://www.printershowcase.com). Their comparison of black and white laser in the small office category is <https://www.printershowcase.com/bwsmalloffice.aspx> . Cost to print per page varies from 0.58 cents to 1.7 cents under a standard measure.

Based on the costs, best deal in this category is <https://www.printershowcase.com/p3045dn.aspx>.

I have purchased multiple printers from this company, primarily larger Ricoh color lasers. Other than prior good experience, I have no stake in the outcome.

Darrell G. Stewart

I would recommend one with a document feeder and completely agree on the recommendation to NOT buy inkjet! Never, never! Learned from my mistake!!! By the way, if you know that your feeder is leaving streak marks on copies, do you know how to fix this? It's a Brother MFC-:2680W.

The streaks don't come out when printing or using the scan glass and only when using the feeder? Any advice?

John Kang, Nevada

Regarding the streaks on copies when you use the feeder, my experience was that the "slit glass" that the paper passes by either has a mark on it that needs cleaning, or the plastic at one end of the glass needs cleaning.

This is different glass than is used for the flatbed. A credit card edge run across the area might help, too, according to my XEROX people. But this link, as an example, tells a bit of a different story and you might follow its recommendations:

<https://www.ucidocuments.com/how-to-clean-the-slit-glass-on-a-copier/>.

Mark E. Peneguy, Louisiana

I have five hp1102w laser printers for my home and my office and they are great for low volume jobs. Cheap and toner lasts a very long time. For big jobs, I have an hp m602n which is very reliable and has per page cost of a penny or two. I have a brother multi function too. I know there are a lot of brother fans here but for me, never again. Having to replace toner and the drum separately is extra hassle. And the toner ran out very fast. We use the brother solely as a scanner and never print from it.

Gene Lee, California

Check to see if there is a smudge/dirt on the glass that scans for the feeder. Our glass is maybe 1/2 inch wide.

The printer doesn't use one. The flatbed scanner may have a different one.

Jim Pardue, North Carolina

I have used LD products for my print cartridges for over 20 years. I only had to return one cartridge, which was replaced without charge. Keeps my cost per copy very low. Very happy with their rebuilt cartridges and I highly recommend them. As an amateur photographer I also print up many photographs and again I've been very happy with cartridges from LD.

Jim Winiarski

I love my Brother DCP- L2540DW.

Nothing beats a Brother.

Bridget Butler

I am the *former* Brother fanboy.

The last two, HL-L6200DW models, had issues with crinkling paper. One was replaced by Brother. Still, no resolution of issues.

I would not buy another one.

Jim Pardue

I'm happy with my Brother HL-2270DW laser printer, which I think is an outdated model. It gets used sporadically, and when used, is used a lot.

But it also goes a month or several without any use and is just fine, which I think is just a feature of most laser printers. Right now it is sitting in the back of my office, because I sold my house next month and am currently bunking with a family member. I think the more recent model is about \$100 on Amazon.

Cynthia V. Hall, Florida

Thank you, Mark! It worked!! No more streaks. 1 less complaint from clients and courts.

John Kang

I'm pleased it helped solve your problem!

Mark E. Peneguy

I have had several inkjet printers and buy aftermarket cartridges. We don't use it much except when we need color. An old black and white laser printer does the rest.

Mitchell Goldstein, Virginia

