



Printer Cartridges

- If the empty cartridges the people of the world throw away each year were stacked end to end they would be able to circle the earth – that's over 38,400 kilometres!
- A typical printer cartridge takes 1000 years to decompose – that's nearly twice the age of the Blarney Stone!
- More than 1.1 billion inkjet cartridges are used annually around the world – laid end to end this would be 129 times as long as the great wall of China
- Approximately 3.5 litres of oil are required to produce each new laser printer cartridge and 90 ml of oil is used to produce each inkjet cartridge
- Each discarded empty laser printer cartridge adds approximately three pounds of waste to our landfills
- The plastic used in a typical cartridge is made of engineering grade polymers and is expected to take up to 1000 years to decompose
- 20 – 30% of all cartridges sold worldwide are remanufactured

Mobile Phones

- There are now more mobile phones than people in Ireland!
- It is estimated that 1.5 million mobile phones were replaced in Ireland in 2005 – that's enough to stretch the length of the Dublin Needle almost 2000 times
- Some mobile phones and their accessories contain some of the most dangerous substances known to man.
- Mobile phones contain small amounts of precious metals like gold silver and copper
- It is expected that one billion handsets will be sold each year by 2009
- The average mobile phone user will replace their handset once every 18 months
- Mobile phones contain substances which need to be disposed of in a safe and efficient manner:



- The Cadmium in the battery from a single old phone could seriously contaminate 600,000 litres of water, enough to fill a third of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Cadmium is being phased out of new batteries.
- Lead - which affects the immune, endocrine and central nervous systems, and causes serious damage to children's brains - is used to solder components to the printed wiring boards.
- Brominated flame retardants, used in wiring boards and plastic cases, have been associated with cancer, liver damage and problems with the neurological, immune and endocrine systems.
- Beryllium, which can cause serious lung damage, is used in contacts and springs and highly toxic dioxins can be emitted if the phones are incinerated in waste plants.

