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## Leaking Cartridge!

It's normal for all cartridges to leak a couple of drops when first filled. This may even continue for 5 minutes or so. Remember, if there isn't ink at the exit hole of the cartridge, the printer can't print. So expect a bit of a drip.

If your cartridge is one of the \*HP vacuum-retained cartridges, then continued leaking tells us that the cartridge has an air leak. Air leaks are caused by:

Poor sealing - check the sealing that you did.

Tiny cracks - visually inspect the cartridge for tiny cracks or leakage points.  
Try sealing the holes or discard the cartridge.

Punctured bag - not much you can do except throw away the cartridge.

If your cartridge is a simple sponge-filled cartridge, then it should stop leaking after a few minutes unless you have overfilled. Let the cartridge sit overnight where it can make a mess (newspaper and paper towel) then check it in the morning.

### **\*Vacuum Retained Cartridges**

Vacuum-retained cartridges are most commonly made by Hewlett-Packard. A little more complex in design but not much more difficult to refill. There are a few important things to remember about these cartridges when refilling:

1. Always squeeze the cartridge before sealing to set up the vacuum.
2. The vacuum will stabilise by leaking a few drops of ink. Expect this and plan for it. Remember, a regular dribble means the seal isn't tight.
3. Some of these cartridges have a filter screen just above the printhead. Because the original ink can foam in the presence of air, the first refill will often result in missing segments from long horizontal lines. This is caused by the foam blocking off the ink flow for short periods of time. It is cured by either rinsing the cartridge before the first refill, or naturally over time when the cartridge is refilled a second time - removing the last bits of the original ink.

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