

CLEANING LINT, etc. FROM EPSON PRINT HEADS

(From Resources for Epson Printers: <http://home.att.net/~arwomack01/#blobsofink>)

Q: I am getting black blobs on my prints. Are my rollers are getting ink on them?

A: You have hair or lint on your print head nozzles and it is wiping ink on the rollers with each pass. Below are the steps needed to correct this.

1. Press your eject button for 3 seconds to get the print head in cartridge change position. Then pull the plug.
2. Take a piece of ordinary paper towel (lint-free not necessary), cut it in half and fold it a number of times until it fits in the little area in front of the print head between the rubber rollers and pizza wheels. (about half an inch wide). Tape each side of the paper towel down well. Take a syringe and slightly soak the paper towel with Windex - trying to stay away from the tape. Grab your print head and slowly pull a few times over the paper towel. (back and forth) You will get a big mess of ink and fuzz on the paper towel. Remove and discard this. (One tiny piece of lint or cat hair can easily cause this problem) Repeat this again with a new piece of towel with more Windex. Take your syringe and make the pad where the print head rests wet with Windex. Be careful here not to do this quickly. You can make this pad very wet if you do it slowly - which is good.
3. Clean your rubber rollers with Q-tips wet with Windex. Dry them by running a sheet of plain paper through with the paper feed button. Move your print head manually back to the right cartridge parking position and plug back in.
4. Run a few cleaning cycles to thoroughly clean the nozzles and your problem should be gone.

To prevent this problem it is very important to keep lint out of your printer. Make sure you blow off each sheet of art or watercolor paper before putting into your printer. These papers attract and hold little hairs and lint and must be checked individually before insertion into your printer.

You might think of keeping a soft, wide paint brush next to your printer to wipe off these particular papers."

(This procedure was used by a close colleague and worked beautifully. As far as I know it has not been run by Epson, so you're on your own.)

\Photoshop Tips\epson_cleanhead; (LN, July 2, 2004)