Printhead
Cleaning

Label printer manufacturers recommend to clean the printhead of an industrial, desktop or card printer with every 2-3 rolls of labels or ribbons.
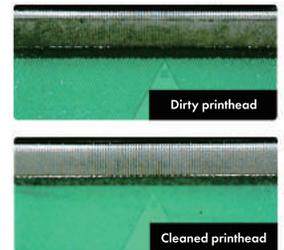
Why do you care?

1 Prevent premature printhead failure

Save money. The printhead is the most expensive consumable in your label printer and it can cause the most print-related issues. By cleaning it, you will get a longer life out of your printhead.

2 Produce high-quality images

Ink residue, dirt and adhesive build-up will result in poor print quality, or worse. The cost of unreadable barcodes differs by industry and may include fines or issues down the supply chain.

Dirty printhead

Cleaned printhead

How to clean a printhead and platen roller

If you maintain a printhead well, there's no need for scraping or other harsh measures. Open the printer and simply wipe it down with a cleaning pen, wipe or swab.

1

Release the printhead
and allow it to cool

2

Wipe the printhead with a
pen, wipe or swab

3

Wipe the platen roller
(do NOT use a cleaning pen!)

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What is the right cleaning product?

Printhead cleaning products come in various shapes and forms. You have a choice of cleaning pens, swabs, cards and wipes. What's best for you depends largely on your experience and preference. Often, a combination of products works best. For example, a saturated swab to clean the printhead and a wipe for the platenroller. Manufacturers recommend printhead cleaning with pure Isopropyl alcohol, which actively cleans and evaporates quickly after application. This means that you are back to printing right after a cleaning.

4U-Wipe-40

40 individually sealed saturated wipes

Contains 99.9% Isopropyl Alcohol
Size wipe: 152mm x 127mm (6 x 5 inch)

4U-Wipe dispenser-100

100 saturated wipes in a container

Contains 70% Isopropyl Alcohol
Size wipe: 178mm x 135mm (7 x 5.3 inch)

4U-Pen-12

100 saturated wipes in a container

Contains 99.9% Isopropyl Alcohol
Size pen: 143mm (5.6 inch)

4U-ISO swab-24

24 alcohol–filled swabs

Contains 99.7% Isopropyl alcohol
Size swab: 113mm (4.4 inch)

4U-SAT swab-15

15 individually sealed saturated swabs

Contains 99.7% Isopropyl alcohol
Size swab: 127mm (5 inch)

4U-Cleaning cards-15

15 cleaning cards for 4" label printers

Contains 99.7% Isopropyl alcohol
Size card: 100mm x 150mm (4 x 6 inch)