

HP, Canon, Epson & Brother printers | Medium | 2 min read

Brother laser printer prints streaks, lines or faint pages

Please note: independent guidance. Vision Tech is not affiliated with the maker. Menus differ between models and software versions, so check the manual or on-screen help.

Black lines, faint areas or grey patches on a Brother laser printout usually point to the drum, the toner or dust on the corona wire. Some fixes are quick and safe if you let the printer cool first.

Safety first

Switch the printer off and let it cool for at least 10 minutes, since the fuser inside is very hot. Handle the drum and toner by their handles and keep the drum away from bright light. Avoid breathing toner dust.

Clean the corona wire

Brother drum units have a green tab that cleans the wire inside.

1. Open the front cover and take out the drum and toner unit.
2. Slide the green tab gently from one end to the other and back several times.
3. Make sure the tab ends up in its home position, as marked on the unit.
4. Put the unit back and close the cover.

Check the toner

Faint print can mean toner is running low. You can often rock the cartridge gently from side to side to spread the toner and print a few more pages. This is only a short-term help.

Check the drum

If lines or marks repeat at the same distance down the page, or if the page has grey shading, the drum may be worn or dirty. Your manual may show a repeating-spot guide. Do not wipe the drum surface.

Damp or unsuitable paper can cause smudges. Try fresh, dry paper.

Third-party parts

Compatible toner and drums can be cheaper, but results vary and some can cause print problems. Consider this if issues began after switching.

If marks appear on copies but not on prints, wipe the scanner glass with a soft dry cloth.

When to get more help

Get help if lines continue after cleaning, if you see toner leaking, or if there is a smell of burning. Do not open the casing beyond the user covers.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.