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Canon PIXMA prints blank or streaky: nozzle check and cleaning

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.

If your Canon PIXMA prints blank pages, pale colours or white lines, the print head nozzles may be clogged, especially if the printer has not been used for a while. Canon provides a nozzle check and cleaning routine for this.

Check the simple things first

- Check the ink levels on the printer's display or in its software.
- Make sure the orange tape or protective film is gone from new cartridges.
- Check you are printing on the correct paper type and the right side of the paper.

Print a nozzle check pattern

1. Load plain A4 paper.
2. Use the printer's menu or the computer's printer software to find **Nozzle Check** or **Print Check Pattern**. Your model may differ; check the display or the maker's manual.
3. The printer prints a grid of lines.
4. If lines or blocks are missing, the nozzles need cleaning.

Clean the print head

1. In the same maintenance area, choose **Cleaning**.
2. Wait for the printer to finish, as it can take a minute or two.
3. Print the nozzle check pattern again.
4. If the pattern is still poor, repeat once.

Try deep cleaning

If normal cleaning has not worked after two attempts, many models offer **Deep Cleaning**. It uses a lot more ink, so only use it when needed. If it does not improve things, wait a few hours and try again.

If print looks doubled or blurry rather than missing, run **Print Head Alignment** from the same menu.

Safety notes

Ink can stain skin and clothes. Do not touch the print head or reach inside. Handle cartridges only as shown in your manual.

Print something in colour now and then, such as a test page, to keep the nozzles in use.

When to get more help

Get help if the pattern is still poor after cleaning, if a cartridge leaks, or if the printer shows an error. Do not open the casing.

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.