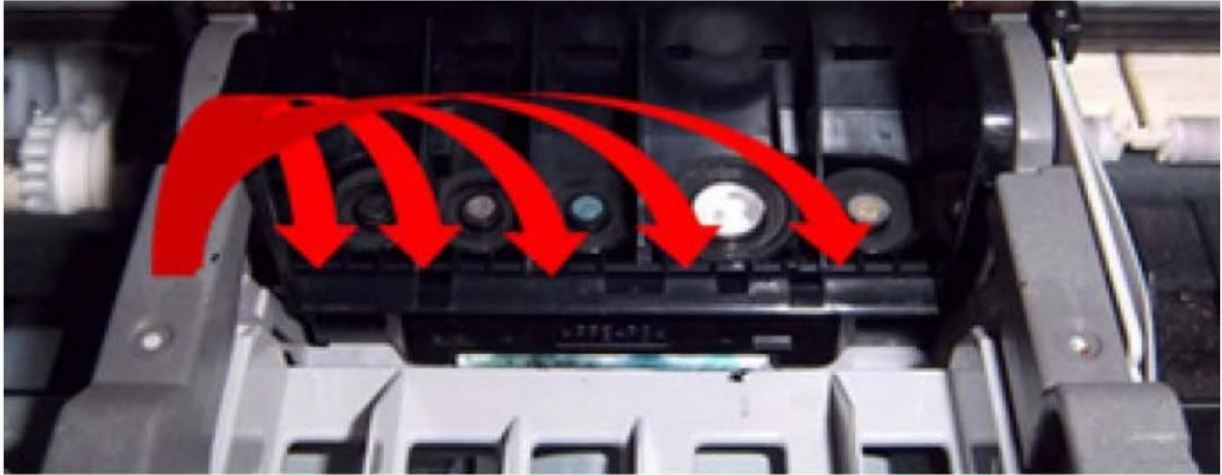


## CLEANING A BLOCKED PRINTHEAD IN A CANON EDIBLE PRINTER



Edible ink printers need to be maintained on a regular basis due to the nature of the edible ink itself which contain ingredients that can crystallize when temperatures either get too cold or unused for long periods of time. Here is an easy and simple method to unblock your print head using a Canon printer.

## Edible Ink Canon Print head Cleaning

If your printer is not outputting colors correctly and your nozzle test is not showing all the cartridge colors clearly, then you will more than likely need to clean the print head. Your main concern will be keeping the nozzles of your print head “UNCLOGGED”. Due to the nature of food colors, sediment will form in the print nozzle after being exposed to air for a few days of not being used, thus clogging the tiny micro print nozzles where the color is sprayed out from. Excess food coloring drying on the outside of the nozzles will also cause problems with your printing.

You can determine if your print head is experiencing clogged print nozzles very simply. In some situations you will notice horizontal lines in your printed images which may be still white (no ink is sprayed in that area at all). This usually indicates many of your print nozzles are completely clogged. To determine which color is not printing, do a nozzle check through the Maintenance tab.

In other situations you might experience discoloration. This is due to a number of nozzles in one color being clogged. Bubble Jet Printers layer colors to achieve the entire range of colors available such as spraying a line of yellow followed by a line of blue right on top of it to make it green. If your yellow print nozzles were clogged up you might notice a bluish tint to something that should have been green.

Do not remove the color cartridges unless replacing and/or refilling.

Do not let a print head sit for very long without any color cartridges snapped into it. You do not want to expose the color reservoir intakes to air which could dry the ink in the color reservoir, creating a deep clog.

***\*\*\*Please Note, the average life expectancy of a print head with food coloring is roughly 8 MONTHS but by following the suggested care and maintenance, you should be able to extend the life of your print head and printer.***

## Why does this happen?

From time to time the print head on your printer may become clogged, etc. and thus must be cleaned thoroughly. Edible ink is made from various natural ingredients and some which include sugar which can over time crystallize if kept under 18 degrees Celsius. This can occur if the printer or cartridges are kept in an area where it is quite cold and breezy or if the printer hasn't been used for a while.

## What you'll need:

- 1 X Glass or Plastic jug
- Lint free cleaning cloth
- Hot water (Filtered and/or Distilled)



## STEP 1 – Removing the Print Head

To do this, first you must open the top lid of your printer. Wait until the carriage with your cartridges moves to the centre and stops. Then slowly remove all your cartridges and place them aside on a clean surface. Depending on the model of your printer there are various methods on how to remove the print head.

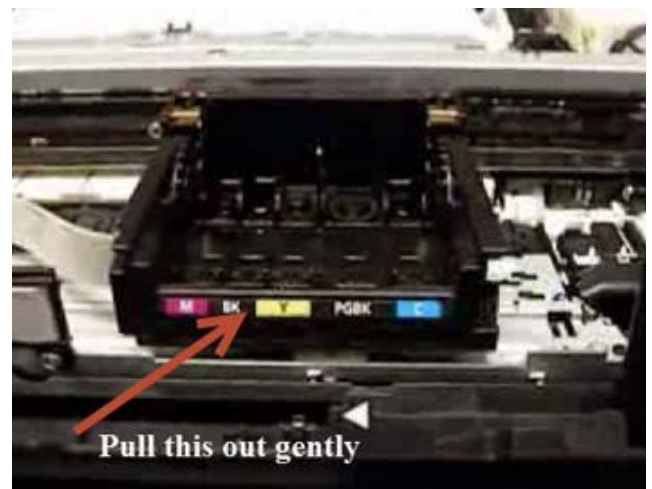
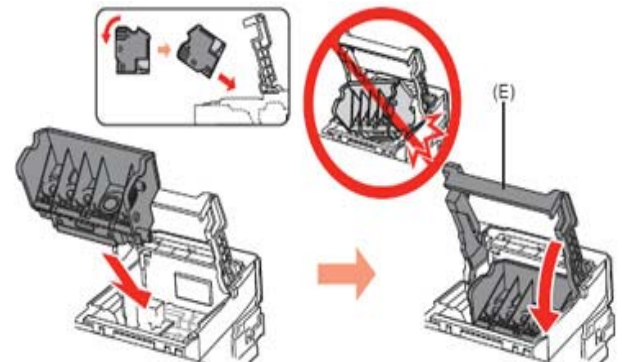
While it is fairly and easy process, the removal part is a delicate operation so please be gentle and take your time.

**For the A3 Canon Model Printers**, you will need to lift up the front tab as shown in the diagram until it clicks and stays elevated. Then slowly feel inside and pull out the print head. The print head is ejected in a certain way so be sure to take your time, don't force it at all.

**For A4 Canon Model Printers**, once you remove all the cartridges, you will notice a front bracket that needs to be gently pulled out until it clicks. It will require a little force but it will click.

Once that is done, slowly feel inside and gently remove the print head by tilting it towards you and sliding it out. This can be tricky so take your time and don't force it. Once the print head is out, we can commence with the cleaning process.

Below is an image of a print head showing the black compressed rubber seal/washer removed. In time the compressed washer does not return to its full size and needs to be removed and cleaned so the seal is made between the cartridge and washer. A "POOR SEAL" will allow the ink to flow from one color to the next and possibly cause a clogging issue as well.



## STEP 2 – Soaking the Print Head

Fill up a glass or plastic jar with distilled water and heat until you can see some steam (Not Boiling). Make sure you have poured 1"-2" or more of water to soak the bottom of the print head. Then get your print head and submerge it gently into the Hot Water and agitate it and leave it for at least ½ hour. Once the time is up, remove and rinse the print head with Distilled and/or Filtered water and repeat the process again by submerging it into New Hot Water. You could clean out the jug and pour Clean Hot Water again for the second time. Make sure to NOT USE TAP WATER. Only Distilled and/or Filtered Water.



## STEP 3 – Drying the Print Head

Once you have finished soaking your print head, remove it from the jug and use your lint free cloth to dry the print head completely or leave it out to dry. An alternative is you can purchase a can of oil free compressed air to dry it as well or a hair dryer with cold air.

## STEP 4 – Reinstalling the Print Head

When it is dry, reinstall the print head back into your printer using the same method that you used to remove it. If it seems like the print head is stuck, do not force it, gently take it out again and try reinstalling.

There is a specific method in installing the print head and if you simply cannot get it inside, watch the video: [‘The Secret on how to remove a Canon Print Head’](#) on YouTube to assist you.

Once your print head is installed, again lower the level (A3 printer) or push in the front plastic lever (A4 printer) then one by one, place all the ORIGINAL CANON inks in as they are NON-TOXIC and will NOT CONTAMINATE your printer or future print jobs, and conduct a cleaning and do a print or two onto regular paper (do not waste your frosting sheets). If all looks good, then replace with the EDIBLE CARTRIDGES and conduct a couple more test prints onto regular paper to flush out the Original Ink and Refill the Print Head with brand new Edible Ink!

Also, if the printer is not going to be used for a while, please make sure to at least send a NOZZLE check to the printer at least twice a week or more if you like , to keep the ink “FREE-FLOWING.”

\*\*\*Also as a precaution wipe down the metal connector on the print head with an alcohol wipe to prevent any rusting on the metal. We recommend after doing this to perform a cleaning function via the software then print a nozzle check again ensuring all colors are being outputted. If you still are having issues, then you could either soak the print head for a longer period of time using the methods mentioned above.

Experiencing Track Marks?

Here is a link to our YouTube Video Page that talks about how to get away from Track Marks and cleaning your print head using Kopykake’s Steamjet Cleaner Part#: **STEAM-110V**:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYNB\\_b3dEA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYNB_b3dEA)

**\*\* Always use the Rear Tray Feed when Printing on Kopykake's Frosting Sheets**

**Some printers have a bottom tray paper feed. Please do not use this when printing Frosting Sheets. This puts the sheets through a tight turn which can cause the Frosting Sheets to slip off the backing!**