You can purchase genuine Epson ink and paper from an authorized Epson reseller. To find the nearest reseller, please call 800-GO-EPSON (800-463-7766). To purchase online, visit www.epsonstore.com (U.S. sales only). In Canada, please call (800) 463-7766 for reseller referral.

### Printing Specifications

**Printing**

- Printing method: On-demand ink jet
- Nozzle configuration:
  - Black: 90 nozzles
  - Color: 87 nozzles (29 each: cyan, magenta, yellow)
- Print direction: Bidirectional with logic seeking
### Mechanical

**Paper path**  
Sheet feeder, top entry, front out

**Sheet feeder capacity**  
120 sheets of 24 lb (90 g/m²) paper

**Dimensions**

**Storage**  
Width: 17.6 inches (447 mm)  
Depth: 9.4 inches (240 mm)  
Height: 7.7 inches (189 mm)

**Printing**  
Width: 17.6 inches (447 mm)  
Depth: 17.1 inches (436 mm)  
Height: 12.4 inches (309 mm)

**Weight**  
8.59 lb (3.9 kg) without the ink cartridges

### Interfaces

**USB Interface**

**Standard**  
Based on Universal Serial Bus Specifications Revision 1.1, Universal Serial Bus Device Class Definition for Printing Devices Version 1.1

**Bit rate**  
12 Mbps (Full speed device)

**Data encoding**  
NRZI

**Adaptable connector**  
USB Series B

**Recommended cable length**  
Under 2 meters

### Electrical

**Rated voltage**  
120 V

**Input voltage**  
90 to 132 V

**Rated frequency range**  
50 to 60 Hz

**Input frequency range**  
49.5 to 60.5 Hz

**Rated current**  
0.4 A (Max. 0.7 A)

**Power consumption**

- Approx. 11 W (ISO 10561 Letter Pattern)  
- Approx. 2.0 W in standby mode  
- Approx. 0.3 W in power-off mode

### Environmental

**Temperature**

- **Operation**  
50 to 95 °F (10 to 35 °C)

- **Storage**  
–4 to 140 °F (–20 to 60 °C)
  
1 month at 104 °F (40 °C)

**Humidity (without condensation)**

- **Operation**  
20 to 80% RH

- **Storage**  
5 to 85% RH

*Stored in shipping container

### Safety Approvals

**Safety standards**  
UL 60950, CSA C22.2 No. 60950

**EMC**  
FCC part 15 subpart B class B

**EMI**  
CSA C108.8 Class B

### Ink Cartridges

**Colors**  
Cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Cartridge life**  
6 months at 77 °F (25 °C) after opening the package

**Temperature**

- **Storage**  
–4 to 104 °F (–20 to 40 °C)
  
1 month at 104 °F (40 °C)

- **Freezing**  
3.2 °F (–16 °C)

* Ink thaws and is usable after approximately 3 hours at 77 °F (25 °C).

**Caution:** To ensure good results, use genuine Epson® cartridges and do not refill them. Other products may cause damage to the printer not covered by Epson's warranty. Don’t use an ink cartridge if the date on the package has expired.

### Paper

#### Single sheets

**Size**

- A4 (8.3 × 11.7 inches)
- A5 (5.8 × 8.3 inches)
- A6 (4.1 × 5.8 inches)
- Letter (8.5 × 11 inches)
- Legal (8.5 × 14 inches)
- Half-letter (5.5 × 8.5 inches)
- Executive (7.3 × 10.5 inches)
- 4 × 6 inches
- 5 × 7 inches
- 3.5 × 5 inches
- 8 × 10 inches
- User Defined up to 8.5 × 44 inches

**Paper type**  
Plain bond paper or special paper distributed by Epson
Thickness 0.003 to 0.004 inch (0.08 to 0.11 mm)
Weight 17 lb (64 g/m²) to 24 lb (90 g/m²)
(for plain bond paper)

Envelopes
Size No. 10 (4.1 × 9.5 inches)
DL (4.3 × 8.7 inches)
C6 (4.5 × 6.4 inches)
Paper type Plain bond paper
Weight 20 lb (75 g/m²) to 24 lb (90 g/m²)

Note: Poor quality paper may reduce the print quality and cause paper jams or other problems. If you have print quality problems, switch to a higher grade paper.

Do not load curled or folded paper.

Use paper only under these conditions:
Temperature: 59 to 77 °F (15 to 25 °C)
Humidity: 40 to 60% RH

Since the quality of any particular brand or type of paper may be changed by the manufacturer at any time, Epson cannot guarantee the quality of any non-Epson brand or type of paper. Always test a sample of paper stock before purchasing large quantities or printing large jobs.

Always load paper into the sheet feeder with the short edge first. Load envelopes flap edge left with the printable side up.

Printable Area

A The minimum top margin is 0.12" (3.0 mm).
B-L The minimum left margin is 0.12" (3.0 mm) for single sheets and 0.20" (5.0 mm) for envelopes.
B-R The minimum right margin is 0.12" (3.0 mm) for single sheets and 0.20" (5.0 mm) for envelopes.
C The minimum bottom margin is 0.12" (3.0 mm).
D The minimum bottom margin is 0.78" (20 mm) for envelopes

* When printing with the borderless feature, print quality may decline in the expanded area. Before printing large jobs with the borderless setting, print a single sheet to check print quality.

Control Panel

To diagnose some problems, check the printer’s control panel lights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light status</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green  🟢  power light flashes</td>
<td>The printer is receiving a print job, replacing an ink cartridge, charging ink, or cleaning the print head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red  🟥 paper light is on and Green  🟢  power light flashes</td>
<td>Your paper ran out. Load more paper, then press the  🟢  paper button to resume printing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red  🟥 paper light flashes and green  🟢  power light flashes</td>
<td>Paper is jammed in the printer. Press the  🟢  paper button to eject the paper. If that doesn’t work, turn off the printer, open the cover, and pull the paper out from the front, including any torn pieces. Then turn on the printer, reload paper, and press the  🟢  paper button.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red  🟥 ink light flashes and Green  🟢  power light is on</td>
<td>One of the cartridges is low on ink. Check the message that appears on your screen to determine which cartridge is low or follow the instructions on page 6. Make sure you have a replacement cartridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red  🟥 ink light is on and green  🟢  power light is on</td>
<td>One of the cartridges is out of ink or not installed. Make sure you have a replacement cartridge, then follow the steps on page 6 to install it. If you have just installed a new cartridge, it may be incompatible with the printer or incorrectly installed. Reinstall it or replace it with the correct cartridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red  🟥 paper light and red  🟥  ink light flash and green  🟢  power light is off</td>
<td>Paper may be blocking movement of the print head. Turn off the printer, then open the cover and remove any jammed paper or other foreign objects. Turn the printer back on again. If the lights are still on, contact Epson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green  🟢  power light is off; red  🟥  paper and  🟢  ink lights flash (quickly)</td>
<td>The printer may have an internal error. Turn off the printer, wait a few seconds, and turn it on again. If the lights are still flashing, contact Epson.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Loading Paper**

Load paper as follows:

1. Open the output tray and pull out its extension.

2. Squeeze the left edge guide and slide it to the left.

3. Insert the paper, printable side up, against the right edge guide. Then slide the left edge guide against the paper (but not too tightly).

   ![Letter-size paper](image1)

   ![4 x 6-inch or 5 x 7-inch paper](image2)

**Note:** You can load up to 120 sheets of plain paper and up to 20 sheets of most types of photo paper. (See the on-screen User’s Guide for specific paper capacity guidelines.)

Follow these guidelines when loading paper:

- Don’t load paper above the arrow on the left edge guide. Make sure the paper is under the tabs on the left and right edge guides.
- Load the printable side face-up. It’s often brighter or whiter than the other side.
- Always load the short edge first, even when printing in landscape mode.
- Load letterhead or preprinted paper into the printer top edge first.
- If you experience paper feeding problems, try loading fewer sheets.
- If you’re using special paper, check the package for special loading instructions.
Printing on Special Media

Select the correct Type or Media Type setting so your printer knows what kind of paper you’re using and adjusts the ink coverage accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For this paper</th>
<th>Select this setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain paper</td>
<td>Plain Paper/Bright White Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Premium Bright White Paper</td>
<td>Ultra Premium Glossy Photo Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Ultra Premium Glossy Photo Paper</td>
<td>Premium Glossy Photo Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper</td>
<td>Premium Semigloss Photo Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Premium Semigloss Photo Paper</td>
<td>Glossy Photo Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Glossy Photo Paper</td>
<td>Matte Paper - Heavyweight Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Matte Paper Heavyweight</td>
<td>Envelope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Double-Sided Matte Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epson Photo Quality Ink Jet Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following proper care will minimize color changes and lengthen display life:

- Frame prints under glass or a protective plastic sleeve to protect them from atmospheric contaminants like humidity, smoke, and high levels of ozone.
- As with all photographs, keep your prints away from direct sunlight.
- For proper storage, keep your prints in a photo album or plastic photo storage box in acid-free, archival sleeves commonly available from most camera stores.
- Always keep unused paper in the original package.

Cleaning the Print Head

If your printouts are unexpectedly light, or dots or lines are missing, you may need to clean the print head. This unclogs the nozzles so they can deliver ink properly. Print head cleaning uses ink, so clean it only if quality declines.

This section explains how to clean the print head using the Head Cleaning utility.

You can also clean the print head by holding down the button on the printer for three seconds. (This only works when the red ink light is off.)

Note: When you don’t turn on your printer for a long time, print quality can decline, so turn it on and print a few pages at least once a month to maintain good print quality.

Running the Head Cleaning Utility

1. Make sure the printer is turned on but not printing, and the red ink light is off. (If the ink light is flashing or on, you need to replace a cartridge.)

2. **Windows**: Right-click the printer icon on your taskbar (in the lower right corner of your screen). Select Head Cleaning.

   Note: If you don’t see the icon, go to your printer properties window, click the Maintenance tab, then select Head Cleaning.

   **Macintosh OS X**: Open the Applications folder and double-click Epson Printer Utility. Select C68 Series in the printer list, click OK, and select Head Cleaning.

   You see a screen like the following:

   ![Head Cleaning Utility](image)

3. Click Start or Next.

   Cleaning takes several seconds. The printer makes noise and the green power light flashes.

   **Caution**: Never turn off the printer while head cleaning is in progress. You may damage it.

4. When the green power light stops flashing, make sure paper is loaded in the printer, then do the following:

   **Windows**: Click Print Nozzle Check Pattern. Then click Print.

   **Macintosh**: Click Confirmation, then click Next.

   The nozzle check pattern is printed.

5. If the pattern has no gaps or white lines, click Finish.

   ![Nozzle Check Pattern](image)

   If the pattern has white lines or gaps, click Clean to clean the print head again.
You can also turn the printer off and wait overnight. This lets any dried ink soften. Then try cleaning the print head again.

---

**Replacing an Ink Cartridge**

- When the red ink light flashes, one or more ink cartridges are low on ink.
- When the red ink light stays on, one or more ink cartridges are empty; you need to replace the cartridge(s).

When you print, you’ll also see a message on your screen telling you which cartridge is low or empty.

When a cartridge is more than six months old, you may need to replace it if printouts don’t look their best. If the quality doesn’t improve after cleaning and aligning the print head, you can replace the cartridge even if the red ink light is off.

**Note:** You cannot continue printing with one ink cartridge empty, even if the other cartridges still contain ink. Before printing, replace the empty cartridge.

---

**Checking the Ink Supply**

To check your ink supply, do the following:

- **Windows:** Double-click the icon on the Windows taskbar.

  **Note:** If you don’t see the icon, go to your printer properties window, click the Maintenance tab, then select Status Monitor.

  You see a window like this:

- **Macintosh OS X:** Double-click the Epson Printer Utility icon in the Applications folder. Select C68 Series and click OK. Then click Epson Status Monitor. You see a window like this:

---

**Ink Cartridge Precautions**

**Warning:** Keep ink cartridges out of the reach of children, and don’t drink the ink.

If ink gets on your hands, wash them thoroughly with soap and water. If ink gets in your eyes, flush them immediately with water.

**Caution:** Don’t remove the cartridge label, or ink will leak.

Don’t remove the green IC chip from the cartridge. Installing a cartridge without an IC chip can damage the printer. Avoid touching the green IC chip, as this can damage the ink cartridge.

If you remove an ink cartridge temporarily, protect the ink supply port on the bottom of the cartridge from dirt and dust. Place it in the original packaging, if you still have it, or in a small box.

Store ink cartridges in the same environment as the printer. Stand the cartridges upright (the label identifying the color should be on the top).

**Note:** You cannot continue printing with one ink cartridge empty, even if the other cartridges still contain ink. Before printing, replace the empty cartridge.

---

**Removing and Installing Ink Cartridges**

Be sure you have a new ink cartridge before you begin. Once you start replacing a cartridge, you must complete all the steps in one session.

1. Make sure the printer is turned on. (The green power light should be on, but not flashing.) Then open the printer cover.
2. Press and release the ink button.
The ink cartridge holder moves to the left, and the cartridge that needs to be replaced stops under the ink out mark. The power light flashes.

Caution: To avoid damaging the printer, never move the print head by hand.

Note: Don’t hold down the ink button for more than 3 seconds, or the printer will start to clean the print head.

If no cartridge needs to be replaced, the holder moves to the ink cartridge replacement position, shown on the next page. Go to step 5.

3. Press the ink button again.

☐ If more than one cartridge is empty, the next cartridge moves under the ink out mark.

☐ If all the empty cartridges have been identified, the print head moves right to the ink cartridge replacement position, shown below.

4. Open the cartridge cover. Squeeze the back tab of the empty/low cartridge as you lift it out of the printer. Don’t take the used cartridge apart or try to refill it.

Warning: If ink gets on your hands, wash them thoroughly with soap and water. If ink gets into your eyes, flush them immediately with water.

5. Before you remove the new cartridge from its package, shake it four or five times. Then remove it from the package.

Caution: Do not remove or tear the label on the cartridge; otherwise ink will leak.

Do not touch the green chip on the front of the cartridge. This can damage the ink cartridge.

6. Lower it into the holder. Push down gently until the cartridge is firmly seated and clicks into place.

7. If you need to replace other ink cartridges, repeat steps 5 through 6 before continuing with step 8.

8. Close the cartridge cover.
9. Close the printer cover and press the \( \Delta \) ink button. The printer begins charging the ink delivery system.

The green \( \Delta \) power light flashes and the printer makes noise. Charging takes about half a minute. When it’s finished, the green \( \Delta \) power light stops flashing and stays on, and the red \( \Delta \) light goes out.

**Caution:** Never turn off the printer while the green \( \Delta \) power light is flashing, unless the printer hasn’t moved or made noise for more than 5 minutes.

**Note:** If the red \( \Delta \) light stays on (not flashing), the ink cartridge may not be installed correctly. Press the \( \Delta \) ink button again and reinstall the ink cartridge until it clicks into place.

### Aligning the Print Head

If your printouts look blurry or grainy, or you see light or dark vertical banding, you may need to align the print head.

**Note:** Banding may also occur if your cartridges are low on ink or you need to clean the print head.

1. Turn on the printer.
2. Load several sheets of paper.
3. **Windows:** Right-click the \( \text{\texttrademark} \) printer icon on your taskbar (in the lower right corner of your screen). Select **Print Head Alignment**.
   
   **Note:** If you don’t see the icon, go to your printer properties window, click the Maintenance tab, then select **Print Head Alignment**.

   **Macintosh OS X:** Open the Applications folder and double-click the Epson Printer Utility icon. Select C68 Series in the printer list, click OK, and select **Print Head Alignment**.

4. Follow the instructions on the screen to print a black vertical alignment test page. You see a window like this:

5. Look at the four sets of patterns in your printout. For each set, if you see a pattern with no visible vertical lines, enter its number in the corresponding box on the screen and click **Next**.

   If you can’t find an aligned pattern, choose the one that’s closest to being aligned. Click **Realignment** and then Print to print another alignment sheet and repeat this step.

6. Click **Print** to print the color vertical alignment sheet. You see a window like this:

7. Look at the four sets of patterns in your printout. For each set, if you see a pattern with no visible vertical lines, enter its number in the corresponding box on the screen and click **Next**.

   If you can’t find an aligned pattern, choose the one that’s closest to being aligned. Click **Realignment** to print another alignment sheet and repeat this step.
8. Click **Print** to print a black horizontal alignment sheet. After it’s printed you see a window like this:

9. Look at the printout and select the pattern with no gap or line between the rectangles. Enter the number for that pattern in the box on the screen and click **Next**.

   If you can’t find an aligned pattern, choose the one that looks the best. Then click **Realignment** to print another alignment sheet and repeat this step.

10. Click **Print** to print a color horizontal alignment sheet. After it’s printed, you see a window like this:

11. In your printout, find the pattern with no gap or line between the rectangles and enter its number in the box on the screen.

   If you can’t find an aligned pattern, choose the best pattern. Then click **Realignment** to print another alignment sheet and repeat this step.

12. Click **Finish** to close the Print Head Alignment Utility.

---

### Cleaning the Printer

To keep your printer working at its best, you should clean it several times a year.

1. Turn off the printer, unplug the power cord, and disconnect the cable.
2. Remove all the paper, then use a soft brush to clean the sheet feeder.
3. If the outer case or inside of the sheet feeder is dirty, clean it with a soft cloth dampened with mild detergent. Keep the printer cover closed to prevent water from getting inside.
4. If ink accidentally gets inside the printer, wipe off the rollers shown below with a damp cloth.

   **Warning:** Don’t touch the gears or any other parts inside the printer.

   **Caution:** Never use a hard or abrasive brush, or benzine, alcohol, or paint thinner for cleaning; they can damage the printer components and case.

   Don’t get water on the printer components and don’t spray lubricants or oils inside the printer.

### Transporting the Printer

If you need to ship your printer, you must prepare it for transportation by packing the printer in its original box or one of a similar size.

**Caution:** When storing or transporting the printer, do not tilt it, stand it up vertically, or turn it upside down. Otherwise, ink may leak from the cartridges.

Leave the ink cartridges installed. Removing the cartridges can dehydrate the print head and may prevent the printer from printing.

1. Turn on the printer. Wait until the print head returns to the home position, then close the printer cover.
2. Turn off the printer and unplug its power cord.
3. Disconnect the USB cable.
4. Remove any paper from the printer, then remove the paper support.

5. Lower the output tray, and then open the printer cover. Secure the ink cartridge holder with tape, as shown below, then close the printer cover.

6. Close the output tray.

7. Repack the printer and its attachments in the original box using the protective materials that came with them.

**Note:** Keep the printer level during transport and be sure to remove the protective materials and tape from the printer before using it again.

**Related Documentation**

- CPD-19655  Epson Stylus C68 *Start Here*
- CPD-19656  Epson Stylus C68 *Quick Guide*
- CPD-19657  Epson Stylus C68 CD-ROM with electronic *User's Guide*