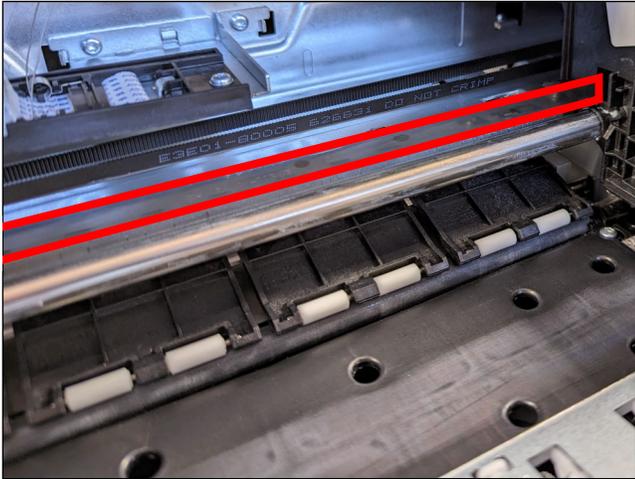


Routine Cleaning for Afinia 502 Printers



Special care must be taken while using isopropyl alcohol (IPA) to clean the components within the printer, particularly around the encoder ribbon. The encoder ribbon is the transparent ribbon which is located directly above the silver bar towards the back of the printer (see picture #1). Touching the encoder ribbon with IPA will erase the data stored on it, and because this ribbon contains data necessary for the printhead to position itself and release ink, your printer will become inoperable. Never spray IPA directly onto any of the printer's components to clean the printer. Instead, dispense IPA onto a lint-free cloth to clean any components.



Picture #1

Instructions for Removing Dust from Inside the Printer:



Recommended frequency: Blow out dust from within the printer at least once a week—more often, if needed.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to remove dust from inside the printer:
 - Can of compressed air
2. Prepare the printer for cleaning.
 - a. Open the front access door (see picture #2) of the printer.
 - b. Power down the printer by unplugging the power cable. Do not press the power button.



Picture #2

3. Point the nozzle of the compressed air inside the printer and pull the trigger to blow out paper fibers resulting from the automatic cutter and other dust from inside the printer. Gently push the printhead carriage out of the way to clean behind it.
4. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.

Instructions for Cleaning the Encoder Ribbon:



Recommended frequency: Clean the encoder ribbon at least once a month.



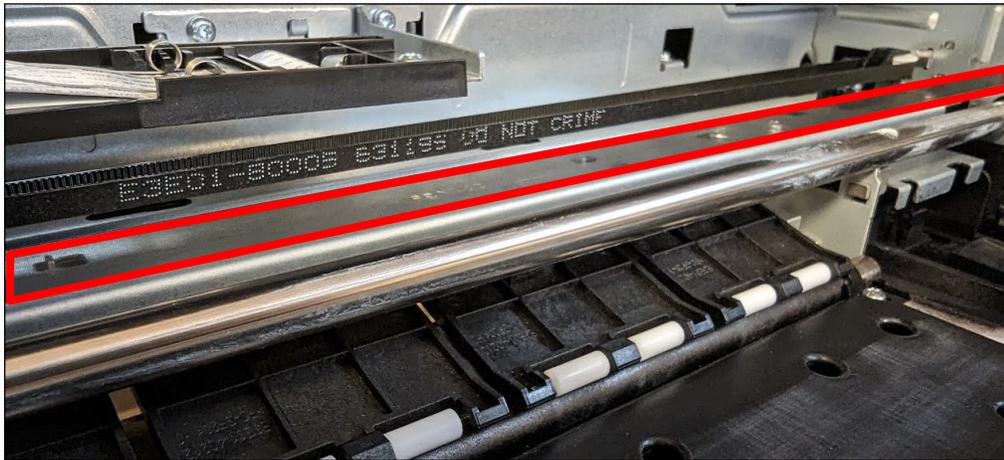
If the printer is making a loud knocking sound while printing, cancel the print job and clean the encoder ribbon immediately.



If the printed labels appear bold or blurry, inspect the encoder ribbon and try the following:

- If the encoder ribbon appears clean (transparent), follow the printhead cleaning process. For more information, see the instructions titled “Cleaning the Printheads on the Afinia Printer”.
- If the encoder ribbon appears dirty (darkened), follow the instructions below.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to clean the encoder ribbon:
 - Distilled water
 - Lint-free cloth
2. Prepare the printer for cleaning.
 - a. Open the front access door (see picture #2 on page 1) of the printer.
 - b. Power down the printer by unplugging the power cable. Do not press the power button.
3. Clean the encoder ribbon (see picture #3).



Picture #3

- a. Gently push the printhead carriage as far to the left as possible.



If the printhead cannot be pushed, step 2 was not followed properly. Either the power button was pressed to power the printer off or the front access door was not opened before powering the printer off. Turn the printer back on and repeat step 2 above.

- b. Dampen the lint-free cloth with distilled water and gently wipe both sides of the encoder ribbon until clean. When clean, the ribbon should appear transparent.
 - c. Gently push the printhead carriage as far to the right as possible.
 - d. Clean the remaining section of the dirty encoder ribbon which was previously covered by the printhead carriage.
4. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.

Instructions for Cleaning the Printhead Sensor:

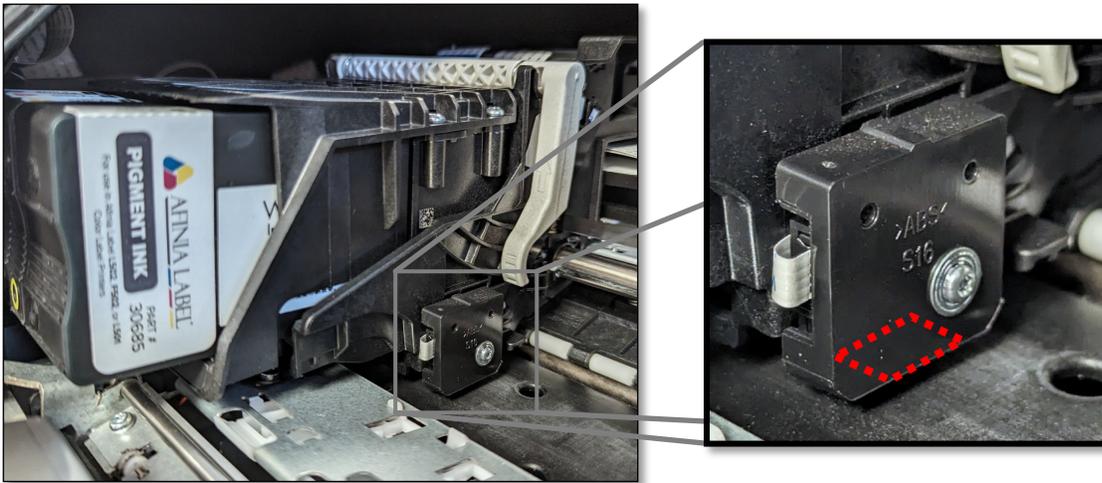


Recommended frequency: Clean the printhead sensor at least once a month.



If the printer continuously feeds label stock through when beginning the print job, unplug the printer and completely remove the label stock from the front and back of the printer. Power the printer on and re-attempt the print job. If the labels continuously feed again, unplug the printer and clean the printhead sensor immediately.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to clean the printhead sensor:
 - Can of compressed air
 - Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)
 - Lint-free cloth
2. Prepare the printer for cleaning.
 - a. If necessary, press the  button to release any labels and remove them from the printer
 - b. Open the front access door (see picture #2 on page 1) of the printer.
 - c. Power down the printer by unplugging the power cable. Do not press the power button.
3. Clean the printhead sensor (see picture #4).



Picture #4

- a. If necessary, push the printhead carriage to the left to give yourself more room for cleaning the sensor.
 - b. Point the nozzle of the can of compressed air under the printhead sensor and pull the trigger to blow out dust that may have settled on the sensor.
 - c. Dampen the corner of the lint-free cloth.
 - d. Slide the dampened corner of the lint-free cloth between the vacuum plate and the underside of the printhead sensor.
 - e. Push and pull the cloth while under the sensor to clean it.
 - f. Remove the cloth.
4. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.



After powering the printer on and resending the print job, if the label stock continuously feeds stock, additional troubleshooting is necessary. Please contact the IT department for further assistance.

Instructions for Cleaning the Printing Plate:



Recommended frequency: Clean the printing plate at least once a month.

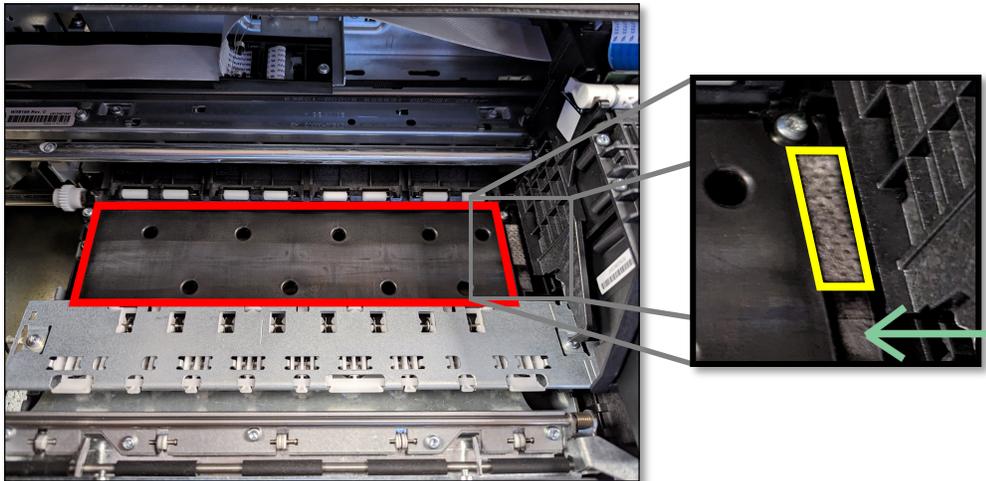


If ink appears on the back side of printed labels, clean immediately.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to clean the printing plate:
 - Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)
 - Lint-free cloth
2. Prepare the printer for cleaning.
 - a. If necessary, press the  button to release any labels and remove them from the printer.
 - b. Open the front access door (see picture #2 on page 1) of the printer.
 - c. Power down the printer by unplugging the power cable. Do not press the power button.
3. Dampen the lint-free cloth with isopropyl alcohol and wipe the printing plate (see picture #4, red outline) until clean. Push the printhead carriage out of the way as necessary.



If the printhead cannot be pushed, step 2 was not followed properly. Either the power button was pressed to power the printer off or the front access door was not opened before powering the printer off. Turn the printer back on and repeat step 2 above.



Picture #4

4. Clean the small pad to the right of the printing plate (see picture #4, yellow outline) by dabbing the pad with the IPA dampened lint-free cloth. The pad will not come completely clean, but this should absorb some of the ink on the pad.



If the pad is overly worn or saturated with ink, refer to the instructions on the next page to replace the pad.

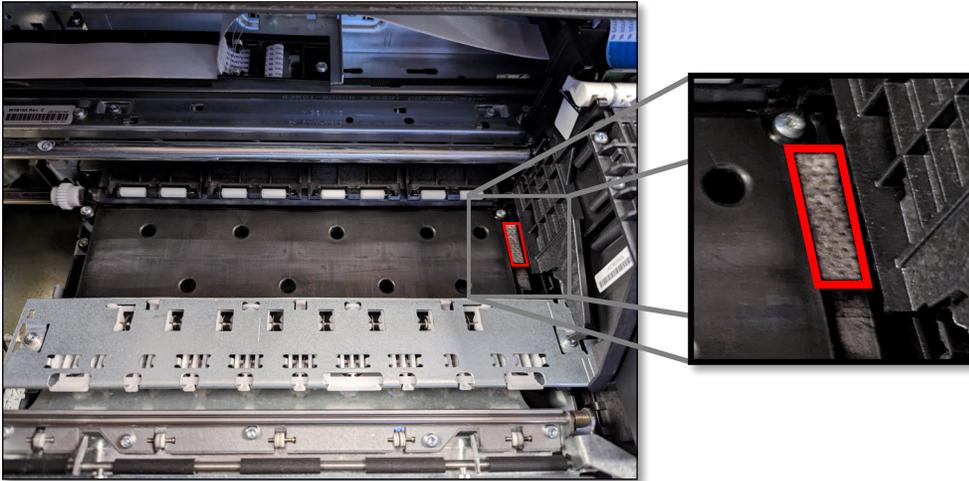
5. Clean the area in front of the small pad (green arrow), removing any ink build up. Over time it may be necessary to use light sandpaper and lightly rough up this surface.
6. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.

Instructions for Replacing the Printhead Cleaning Pad



Recommended frequency: Replace the printhead cleaning pad at least once a year. Replace more often if needed. The pad should not be saturated with ink or appear overly worn.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to replace the printhead cleaning pad:
 - Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)
 - Lint-free cloth
 - Tweezers or needle-nose pliers
 - New printhead cleaning pad
2. Prepare the printer.
 - a. If necessary, press the  button to release any labels and remove them from the printer.
 - b. Open the front access door (see picture #2 on page 1) of the printer.
 - c. Power down the printer by unplugging the power cable. Do not press the power button.
3. Replace the printhead cleaning pad (see picture #5).



Picture #5

- a. Push the printhead to the left to give yourself enough access to the printhead cleaning pad.



If the printhead cannot be pushed, step 2 was not followed properly. Either the power button was pressed to power the printer off or the front access door was not opened before powering the printer off. Turn the printer back on and repeat step 2 above.

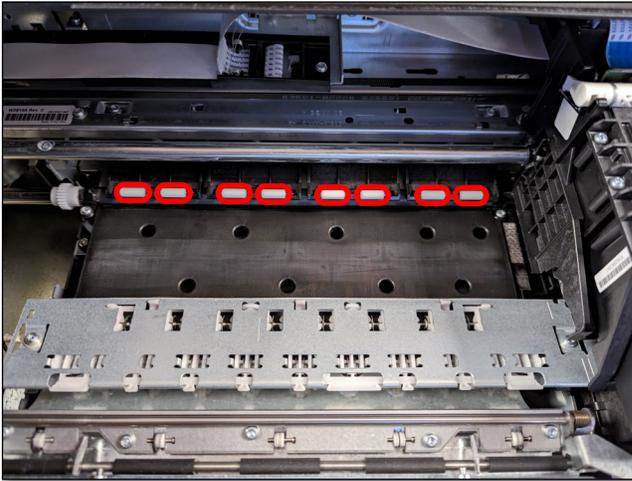
- b. Remove the saturated pad using tweezers or needle-nose pliers.
 - c. Using the dampened lint-free cloth, clean the area where the old pad was positioned.
 - d. Remove the protective backing from the backside of a new pad, revealing the adhesive.
 - e. Place the new pad to the right of the printing plate, where the old pad was positioned.
 - f. Push down firmly to ensure the new pad adheres to the printer.
4. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.

Instructions for Cleaning the Pinch Rollers:

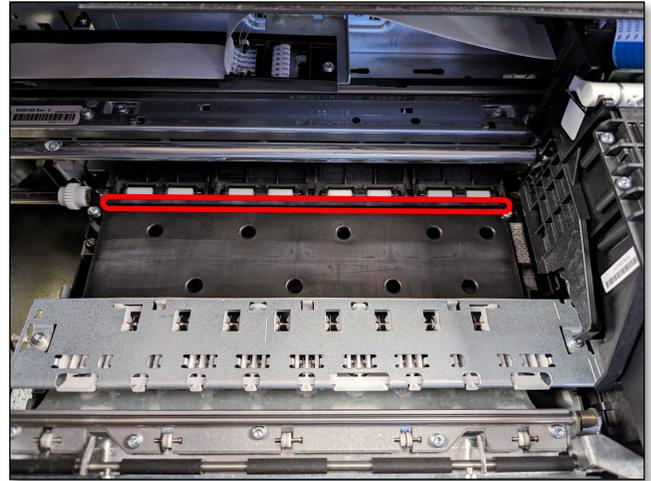


Recommended frequency: Clean the pinch rollers at least once a month. Upper pinch rollers should appear white when clean. Clean more often if needed.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to clean the pinch rollers:
 - Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)
 - Q-tips
2. Prepare the printer for cleaning.
 - a. If necessary, press the  button to release any labels and remove them from the printer.
 - b. Open the front access door (see picture #2 on page 1) of the printer.
 - c. Power down the printer by pressing the power button. You do not need to unplug the power cable.
3. Clean the pinch rollers with cotton swabs.
 - a. Dampen a cotton swab with isopropyl alcohol and wipe the exposed surfaces of all upper pinch rollers (see picture #6) and the single long lower roller (see picture #7) until clean.

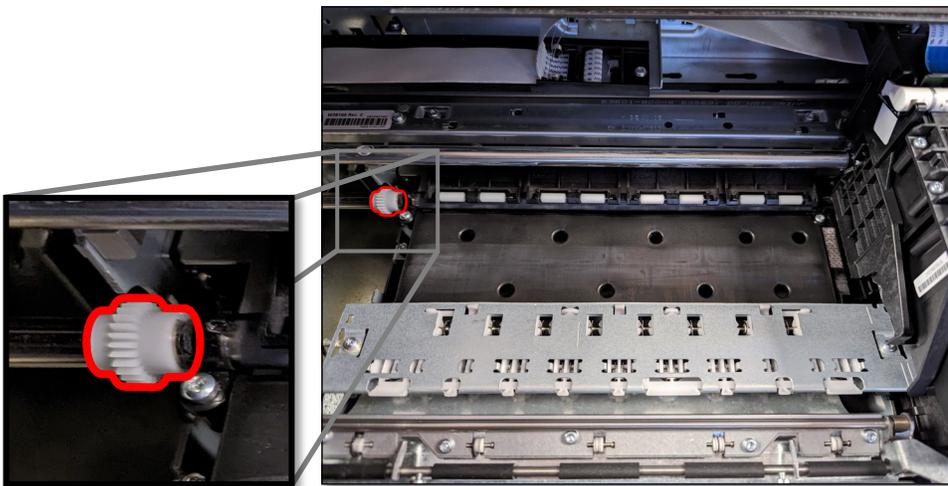


Picture #6



Picture #7

- b. Turn the white gear (see picture #8) to expose uncleaned surfaces on the upper and lower pinch rollers.



Picture #8

- c. Repeat steps 4b and 4c until all surfaces on all rollers are clean.
4. Close the front access door, plug in the power cable, and press the power button to power the printer on.

Cleaning/Replacing the Waste Ink Absorber:



Recommended frequency: Clean the waste ink absorber at least every other week. Increase cleaning frequency as the waste ink absorber becomes more saturated.



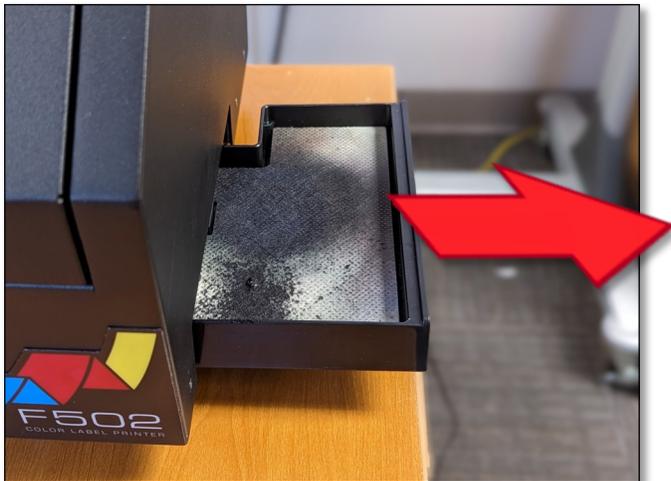
The Afinia printer will periodically cycle a very small amount of ink through the printheads to prevent the printheads from clogging. That waste ink is funneled into the waste ink tray and will be absorbed by the waste ink absorber pad.

1. Gather the following materials/tools needed to clean the pinch rollers:
 - Nitrile or latex gloves to keep your hands clean
 - Paper towels to absorb liquid waste ink
 - Plastic spoon, ink knife, or a similar tool for scooping up solidified waste ink (if applicable)
 - Needle nose pliers, ink knife, or a similar tool for removing soiled ink absorber pad (if applicable)
 - New ink absorber pad (if applicable)
2. Power down the printer by pressing the power button to prevent the printer from running a print job or performing automatic printhead maintenance while the waste ink tray is removed.



If a print job runs or if the printer cycles ink through the printhead while the waste ink tray is removed, waste ink may end up on the surface on which the printer sits instead of the waste ink tray.

3. Pull out the waste ink tray from the right side of the printer and completely remove it (see picture #9).



Picture #9

4. While wearing gloves, use paper towels to soak up as much of the liquid waste ink as possible from the waste ink absorber pad. If excess ink has gelled or hardened, use a plastic spoon or ink knife to scrape up the solidified deposits.
 - If the ink absorber pad can be sufficiently cleaned, proceed to step 5.
 - If the waste ink absorber pad is overly saturated with ink or is too difficult to clean...
 - a. Use needle nose pliers or an ink knife to pull the waste ink absorber pad out from the waste ink tray and trash the soiled pad.
 - b. Use paper towels to wipe the waste ink tray clean.
 - c. Remove the double-sided tape from the back of the new waste ink absorber pad and insert the new pad into the tray.
5. Reinsert the waste ink tray.