

**repair  
vs  
buy  
new  
products**





# **overview**

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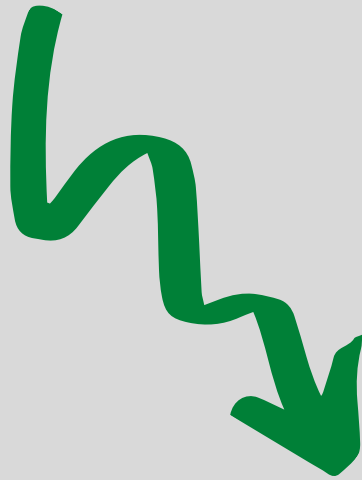
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# 01

## introduction

# repair vs. buy new products



**Making a decision to  
repair an old, broken  
or rundown product  
rather than buying a  
new one.**



# brief history of the repair movement:

- A century ago, repair culture was the norm, the repair industry was booming, & no one threw things out just because they needed some work.
- Towns used to have repair shops for everything from shoes, clothes, clocks & even toasters.
- The Great Depression of the 1930s, an economic crash that impacted the entire world, introduced planned obsolescence.



# planned obsolescence

- occurs when manufacturers design products to either break prematurely or become outdated.
- this causes consumers to throw-away & replace products more frequently.
- this has been a part of society since the 1930's & is finally being outlawed in some places in the world.



# EUROPE IS LEADING THE WAY



- **Many countries** are taking action against planned obsolescence & demanding the right to repair.
- **Right to repair:** a law that would demand that products no longer have planned obsolescence & that every product should have the ability to be repaired if the consumer wishes to do so.
- **In France,** manufacturers that make their products with planned obsolescence can now be charged a fine & spend time in jail.

# NOW REPAIR IS BECOMING THE NORM AGAIN

- There are two ways to repair:

## 1 DIY - DO IT YOURSELF

DIY, the process of building, modifying, or repairing things at home without professionals, is becoming increasingly popular again as how-to videos & articles are trending all over the internet.

## 2 SEEK A PROFESSIONAL

If a project is beyond your skills, professionals for all categories exist. (More on this later)





# 02

**why is repairing  
important?**

# OUR CONSUMPTION HABITS NEED TO SHIFT TO BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE

## OVERCONSUMPTION WE ARE HERE

the unsustainable consumption of natural resources which occurs too fast for the earth to cope with & results in pollution & unmanageable amounts of waste.

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION WE NEED TO BE HERE

the consumption of natural resources in a way that minimizes the impact on the environment & does not harm the needs of future generations.

**“Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.”**

**-- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**





**It's time we move away from a lifestyle of overconsumption towards a lifestyle of sustainable consumption.**

**There are many benefits to changing our habits to include repairing products & reducing consumption.**



## A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF REPAIRING VS BUYING NEW PRODUCTS



***Save Money*** by not buying new products and extending the lifetime of your older products.



***Reduce harmful emissions*** that contribute to climate change by decreasing demand to extract new resources, manufacture new products, & send old products to landfills & incinerators.

## MORE BENEFITS OF REPAIR



Buying less new products helps ***sustain and preserve the earth & its resources*** for future generations.



***A sense of satisfaction & pride*** comes from repairing something when the easier thing to do would have been to toss it in the dump & spend money on a new one.

# 03

**how do you prepare  
to repair?**

**step 1:** shift your  
mindset



# shift your mindset

- A *mindset* is defined as a person's way of thinking - their opinions, attitude & mood.



- Shifting your mindset is at the forefront of creating change as an individual.



- This is a shift away from the belief that products are disposable towards a mindset that values our belongings/possessions.

# How to shift your mindset?

- **Know your why**

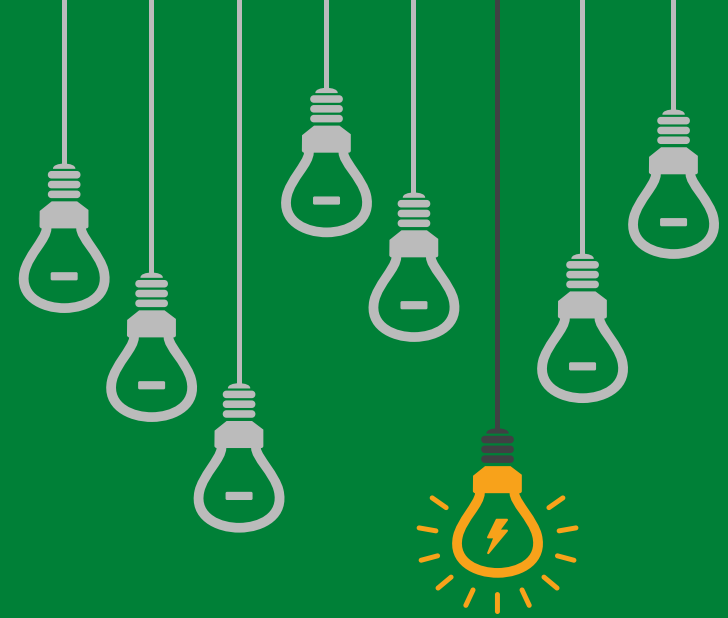
- Ask yourself why you're making this change.
- What is your motivation? Why is buying less & repairing more important to you?

- **Explore what can be changed**

- Assess what in your life is sustainable & what is not, see what can be changed & how. Decide what you can start with.

- **Take action**

- A shift in mindset is complete when your actions begin to reflect your beliefs.
- Take things step by step. Repair small, then move to bigger projects.



**step 2:** buy quality  
products

# buy quality products



- **Apply life-cycle thinking:**
  - When buying new products, try to buy products that are more durable & will last longer.
  - Consider the entire life of a product & its environmental impact at the end of its life.
  - Try to purchase more sustainable, eco-friendly products when possible.
- **Other tips:**
  - Shop in-store rather than online. This way you can analyze the quality of a product before you buy it.
  - Research products before purchasing. For basically every product there are online reviews from previous customers, both positive & negative.
  - Choose products with longer warranties because shorter ones usually mean the product isn't meant to last very long.



**step 3:** take care of  
your belongings

# take care of your belongings

care for your products from the start, this way you'll avoid having to repair things in the first place.

## Make preventative maintenance a priority

- **Preventative maintenance:** this is periodic maintenance that is done before a problem occurs to avoid serious issues & increase a product's lifetime.
  - **Includes** - cleaning, lubricating, adjustments, replacing parts, & other basic repairs.
  - **For a car**, preventive maintenance is taking your car in for routine check-ups. Oil change, tire rotations, replacing brakes, etc.
  - **For clothing**, preventative maintenance could be as simple as following the proper wash instructions on each individual garment.



**step 4:** decide what  
can be repaired

# 7 steps for deciding if a product can be repaired or not

## **Step 1: Perform a self-diagnosis.**

Do your own research & use the resources available to find out what the problem is & evaluate if it is something you can repair yourself.

## **Step two: Get a second opinion.**

Have a friend or relative check out the broken product because they may know more than you do.

## **Step three: Reach out to a professional.**

Getting an expert opinion, even if you plan to perform the repair yourself can be helpful. Many companies have customer service lines that offer free assistance.



### **Step four: Figure out what you'll need.**

For clothing repairs you may need a sewing kit, for furniture repairs, a set of tools, & for electronics you may need some expertise of the product and/or a spare part.

### **Step five: Do further research.**

Now that you know what needs to be repaired, research how to do it. Check out online tutorials, repair manuals, forums, or a repair cafe.

### **Step six: Start your repair!**

But don't sweat it if you're struggling, just seek help wherever you need. (See the "helpful resources" section for more on this).

### **Step seven: If it cannot be repaired..**

Now you can look into buying a new one. BUT remember to think about the guidelines for buying quality products.

# 04

**what can be  
repaired?**

# clothing repair:



## Where are your old clothes going?

- Of the textiles made each year, 85% end up in a landfill or incinerated.
- Our landfills are overflowing with textile waste, an estimate is that clothing & textiles make up 7-12% of landfills globally.
- Landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions, a harmful greenhouse gas.



# clothing repair:

A close-up photograph of several wooden hangers hanging on a metal rod. The hangers are light-colored wood. Various pieces of clothing are hanging from them, including a white top with ruffled sleeves, a grey long-sleeved shirt, and a light-colored t-shirt. The background is a blurred white brick wall.

**Repairing our clothes is the  
key to sustainable fashion**

# clothing repair:

## Common clothing repairs you can do at home:

1. Sew on a Button
2. Fix Torn Seams
3. Replace a Drawstring
4. Sew a Hem
5. Patch a Hole
6. Fix a Zipper



# clothing repair:

## What you will need:

- **A sewing kit:** A good kit includes items like needles & thread, scissors, a tape measure, a seam ripper, spare buttons & sewing pins.
- **Optional:** fabric, patches, zippers, belt loops





# clothing repair:

## For help check out:

- Youtube tutorial videos, books/magazines, websites like [ifxit.com](http://ifxit.com), [allfreesewing.com](http://allfreesewing.com), [clothes-doctor.com](http://clothes-doctor.com), etc.
- **Clothes doctor UK** - the UK's first digital clothing maintenance service, the believe clothing should last a lifetime & can fix any clothing repair. Also offers tips & how-tos for clothing repair & care.



# clothing repair:



**If a piece of clothing can't be repaired, try repurposing the clothing to make a new item or giving it to a textile recycling service.**



# appliance repair:



**A few examples** of easy appliance repairs you can do at home - so you don't have to call a professional

1. **Disposer** - If your disposer won't start, push the reset button & give it a spin.
2. **Lights** - If a light won't work, check the house electrical panel to see if a switch has flipped & if that isn't the problem, try to push the red reset button on the outlet closest to the lights.

3. **Refrigerator** - Clean the coils if your refrigerator isn't cooling or conks out.
4. **Gas Stove** - If the burner won't light, try cleaning the igniter.
5. **Washer** - Quiet a noisy washer by leveling it.
6. **Dishwasher** - Clean the filter & float switch if the dishes don't come out clean.

# appliance/electronic repair:



**Keep in mind** - if  
an appliance or  
electronic uses  
electricity it is  
important to  
consider it's  
**energy impact.**

# appliance/electronic repair:

A man with dark hair, wearing safety glasses and a plaid shirt, is using a stethoscope to listen to a piece of electronic equipment. He is making an 'OK' hand gesture with his right hand. The background shows a workshop with shelves of books, a desk lamp, and various tools and electronic components on a workbench.

**Energy impact:** Older products tend to be less energy efficient, so the environmental impact of replacing it may be more sustainable than repairing and keeping an old item that uses a lot of electricity (especially if your household energy supply comes from fossil fuels).



# electronic repair:

## DIY electronic repair:

Repairing your own electronics such as computers, game consoles, cell phones, iPads, & more, is difficult without specific tools, spare parts, & knowledge of the product.





# electronic repair:



**Fortunately:** There are experts everywhere who can fix your electronics, as well as detailed repair guides online if you'd like to challenge yourself!

# furniture repair:



**Furniture restoration:** the process of a certain furniture piece being cleaned or repaired in order to preserve its functionality & original look.

## Perks of Furniture Restoration

1. **Saves money** - buying furniture, including used furniture, can be extremely pricey, & refurbishing your current furniture is much more cost-friendly.
2. **New style & look** - restored furniture is unique from what is currently being sold in stores & gives you the opportunity to put a personal touch on it. Ex. A previously white table can become brown.
3. **Reduced carbon footprint** - In comparison to furniture restoration, it takes 1000x more CO2 in order to make a new furniture piece.

# furniture repair:

## What you will need:

- **Basic tools:** Gloves, hammer, screwdriver, nails & screws, tape measure, wrench, flashlight or other good source of light.
- **Other things:** handsaw, pliers, level, paint brush & paint, utility knife, clamps, tough glue, sandpaper, power drill, safety equipment.
- **Some repairs** may require specific tools or accessory pieces, check a local or online hardware store if necessary.





# furniture repair:

A modern living room with a blue sofa, a wooden dining table, and a large abstract painting. The room is bright and airy, with a large window in the background.

## Common furniture repairs you can do at home:

1. Loose Rungs on Your Chairs
2. Pieces Coming Apart at the Seams
3. Loose Legs
4. Broken Drawer Corners
5. Uneven Table
6. Busted Handles
7. Wobbly Chairs
8. Pesky Scratches
9. Deep Surface Damage

# furniture repair:



- If the furniture cannot be repaired, consider building something yourself or shopping second hand rather than buying new.
- With furniture that cannot be repaired, try repurposing the wood, fabric, metal, etc. for a new project.

# household repairs:



Many household repairs are easier than they seem, & usually only require a basic toolkit & no expert skills.



# household repairs:



You can repair many things around the house without a professional, including; leaky faucets, toilets, locks, doors, thermostats, lighting, fans, & much more.

# household repairs:

Make sure to check out websites such as **ifixit.com**, **familyhandyman.com**, & **doityourself.com** for great general household repair tutorials & more.



# transportation

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, is smiling and talking on a smartphone. She is in a workshop or garage. In the background, there is a blue pegboard with various tools hanging on it, including wrenches, pliers, and screwdrivers. A white laptop is open on a workbench in front of her. The scene is well-lit, and the overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

**Preventative maintenance is key!**  
Bicycles, cars, & motorcycles will  
require much less intensive  
repairs if they are maintained on  
a routine basis.



# bicycle repair:

## **Tools for routine maintenance:**

- Wrench-set
- Open-end wrenches
- Chain brush
- Chain lube & cleaner
- Floor pump with gauge
- Clean rags
- Tire lever
- Tire tubes
- Tube patch kit



# bicycle repair:

A person wearing a red beanie and a light-colored shirt is working on a bicycle in a workshop. The bicycle is mounted on a red repair stand. The person is looking down at the bike, possibly adjusting the chain or gears. The background shows a brick wall and various tools hanging on the wall.

## Easy bike fixes you can do at home:

- fix a flat tire
- loosen a stuck seat
- rewrapping handlebar grip
- reattach a slipped chain
- tighten loose bolts

Other repairs are often easy to do as well, but if you cannot do it yourself, **bike repair shops** are still very common in most cities.



# bicycle repair:

- If you're in need of a bike, look for a used one, they are cheaper & can easily be fixed up if necessary.
- If **buying new**, look into supporting a bicycle brand like Liv Cycling which offers information for all common bike repairs on their website, sells fix-it kits, & repair parts.





# car repair:

A person wearing a red shirt and shorts is crouched next to a white car, using a high-pressure hose to clean the wheel. The scene is outdoors, and the car is parked on a paved surface.

**Routine maintenance for your car includes a few important tasks:**

- Change car's coolant
- Change oil twice a year (at least)
- Inspect fluids (brake, transmission, coolant)
- Replace the air filter (annually)
- Clean car's headlights
- Clean corroded battery terminals
- Rotate your tires
- Replace wiper blades
- Examine & replace old belts & hoses

# car repair:



## **Tools needed for routine maintenance:**

- Tire Pressure Gauge
- Socket Set with Ratchets
- Combination Wrenches
- Screwdriver Set
- Breaker Bar



# motorcycle repair:

Here's a [Guide to Basic Motorcycle Repair](#), it includes: Changing Your Oil, Brakes, Tires, Filters, Drive Chain





# motorcycle repair:

## Must-have tools for basic motorcycle maintenance:

Nitrile Gloves, Torque Wrench,  
Hammer, Socket Wrench Set, Chain  
Breaker Tool, Impact Driver



# everything else:

Other products such as eyeglasses, water bottles, rugs, umbrellas & almost anything else you can think of can most likely be repaired.

## Now remember:

- Shift your mindset
- Buy quality products
- Take care of your belongings
- Be prepared to repair anything!





# 05

## helpful resources

# repair cafes

repair cafes are meeting places for individuals to bring their skills together & help each other repair broken belongings.



Image source: <https://repaircafe.org/en/>

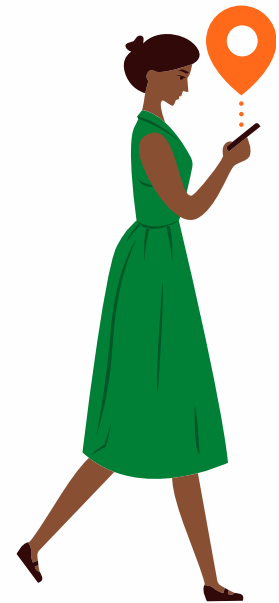
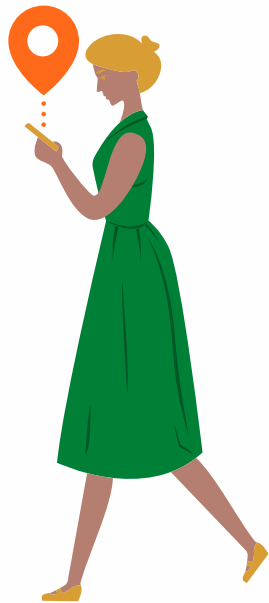
# repair cafes

these “cafes”  
provide the  
necessary tools &  
materials needed  
for people to  
make their own  
repairs & if they  
need further  
assistance there  
are expert  
volunteers that  
can assist them.



Image source: <https://repaircafe.org/en/>

There are more than  
**1,500**  
repair cafes around the world



Find a repair cafe near you,  
it's easy just [click here](#).



# websites

click any website name to check it out!

## IFIXIT.COM

"Repair guides for everything, written by everyone." Has 65,000+ free manuals on everything including clothing, electronics, appliances, vehicles, and hundreds of other things.

## DOITYOURSELF.COM

the leading independent home improvement & repair website. Includes buyers guides, how-to's for almost every product or home feature, & home renovation tutorials.

## FIXITCLUB.COM

Offers free repair help through fix-it basic articles and hundreds of full fix-it guides.

## SKILLSHARE.COM

An online learning community with thousands of classes for creative people who want to build their skills. If there are repair skills you want to learn or have to teach, sign up.

## CONSUMERREPORTS.ORG

Provides reviews on everything from cars, to washers, car seats and hearing aids so consumers can make more informed choices.

## REPAIR.EU

a group of European organizations dedicated to the right to repair, & helping individuals gain access to self repair resources and repair groups.

# professionals

search for these professionals if you need something repaired in these

categories

- **Clothing**
  - Tailor, seamstress
- **Electronics (Phones, laptops, etc)**
  - Electronics technician
- **Furniture & other large household repairs**
  - Carpenter
- **Cars & motorcycles**
  - Auto mechanic, auto technician
- **Bicycles**
  - Bicycle mechanic
- **General Maintenance & Repair**
  - Repairman, "Handyman"



*Thank You*

FOR BEING A PIONEER OF  
CHANGE AND CREATING A  
WORLD THAT IS KIND TO ITS  
PEOPLE AND ITS HOME

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