



Fix it, don't ditch it: why repair and how to do it right

An Exclusive Guide by ECONYL® Brand

ECONYL®

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You don't have to do it perfectly.
Just start somewhere.



**Celebrate the scars:
why your belongings
deserve a second
chance**

Every broken thing has a story to tell

Kintsugi

The Japanese art of **repairing broken pottery with gold** – doesn't hide cracks. It highlights them. What was once damaged becomes more beautiful and more valuable because its flaws are visible.

This mindset flips the script:
broken isn't the end.
It's **the beginning**.



When we repair instead of replace, we give objects a **second life**. Scratches, cracks, and fixes add character and value.

Sometimes, it is the imperfections that make something **unique**.



Why repair culture matters

Extending the life of what we own has a real impact.

92
million tonnes

Around **92 million tonnes of clothing** are sent to landfill every year¹ – often after just one small flaw, tear or stain.

25%

Yet adding just **one more year of wear** can reduce a garment's environmental footprint by **around 25%**².

Repair changes how we assign value. Not “Is this new?” But “Is this cared for?”

Mini game: *Spot one repairable item you already own!*



¹ Earth.org, “How Repairing Clothes Slows Down Climate Change”

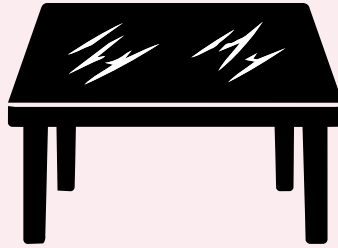
² Fabric of Change, “How to Avoid ‘Fast Furniture’ and Deck Out Your Home with Goods That Will Last,” The Guardian, May 3, 2025”

What if everything was kintsugi?

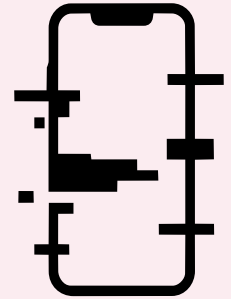
What if we treated:



ripped jacket



**scratched
table**



**glitchy
phone**

...like a kintsugi piece?

Instead of hiding and throwing away damage, we **design and mend** around it. Instead of shame, we choose pride. Instead of “new”, we choose meaningful.

Turn the page.
Let's fix some stuff.

A large, light teal graphic element in the top-left corner of the page. It consists of a quarter-circle arc and a rectangular block, creating a modern, abstract design.

The home
check-up:
small fixes, big
transformations

Home is where small repairs make a big impact.

From sweaters to laptops to coffee makers, the objects around us don't need perfection – they need **love and attention**.

A little care can add years, stories, and character to the things you live with every day.

A photograph of a modern living room with a high, vaulted ceiling. A large, dark-framed triangular window is the focal point, offering a view of a vineyard and trees. Below the triangle is a wide, horizontal rectangular window. To the left, a black wood-burning stove stands next to a glass door. A low, light-colored wooden bench sits in front of the windows. In the foreground, a wooden armchair with orange cushions and green pillows is visible. A small wooden table to the right holds a bottle and a glass. The floor is made of light-colored wood. A light green semi-circular graphic element is in the top right corner.

**Remember: if it's already broken,
you can't break it twice. You can
only make it better.**

Clothing & accessories

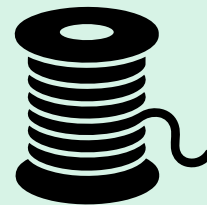
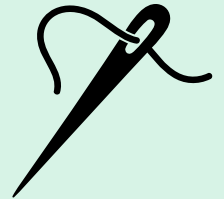
No sewing degree required.
Promise.

Start small and identify items with:

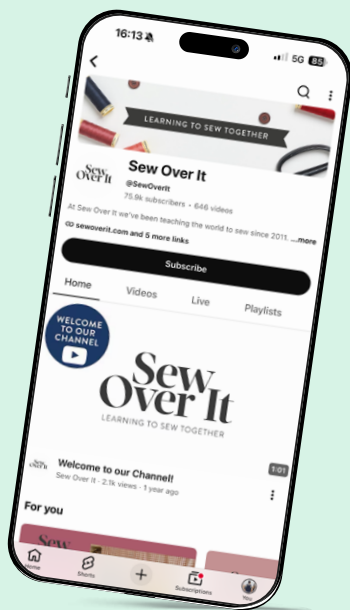
- Loose buttons;
- Tiny holes;
- Worn hems;
- Thinning elbows or knees.

Try this:

- Close it with visible stitches;
- Add a bold patch;
- Embroider over stains or holes.



*P.S: Messy stitches still count
as stitches.*



Find it here:
[Sew Over It](https://www.youtube.com/c/SewOverIt)

New to repairs? Start here

Sew Over It is a beginner-friendly YouTube channel packed with short, clear tutorials on everyday clothing repairs, from sewing on buttons to fixing hems and patching holes.

Perfect if what you're looking for is practical guidance you can follow stitch by stitch.

Tech & gadgets

Before you say “It’s dead, time to buy a new one,” pause.

Try this first:



Turn it off and on again (yes, really);



Clean dust from vents and ports;



Replace the battery or cable;

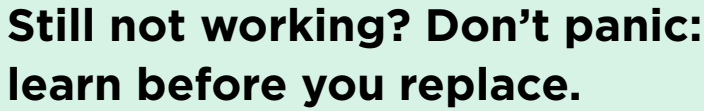


Check a free online repair guide.

Fun fact: The 50/50 Rule.
There’s a good chance your “dead” gadget isn’t dead at all – almost half can be fixed in about 10 minutes. Before you give up on it, flip the coin and try repair... or head to a Repair Café.

(Curious about Repair Cafés and how they work? Keep reading, you’ll find more information on page 14).





Perfect for understanding what's actually broken and deciding whether something is fixable.



Electronics Repair School



Homeware & furniture

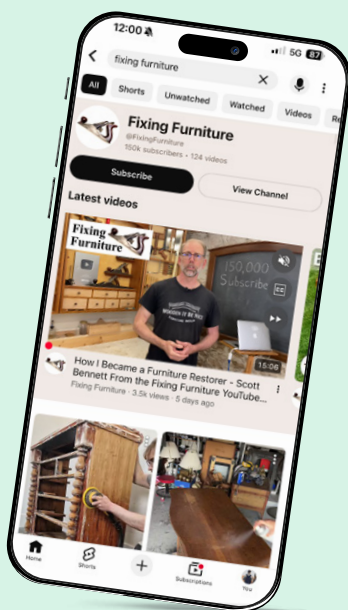
Wobbly chair? Scratched table?
Chipped mug?

Good news:

- Loose screws can be tightened;
- Wood can be glued, sanded, repainted;
- Chips and cracks can be filled – or highlighted.

That so-called imperfection might just become your favorite detail.

Ask yourself: *Could this be cooler with a little effort?* (Answer is often yes.)



Find it here:

[Fixing Furniture](#)

**Not sure where to begin?
Start here.**

Fixing Furniture shows how everyday home items can be brought back to life with practical, no-nonsense tutorials. From tightening wobbly joints to repairing worn wood, it's all about restoring function, then letting beauty follow. Sometimes the fix is the design upgrade.

The image features a light blue background with two large, solid blue corner shapes. One shape is in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. Both shapes are quarter-circles with a radius that extends towards the center of the page.

Fix it together

Meet & mend

Repair is better when it's shared.

Repair Cafés, born in the Netherlands and now global, bring neighbors together to fix broken items side by side. More than half of what's brought in gets repaired on the spot.

Find one near you at repaircafe.org or start your own.

(Pro tip: invite your grandma and her friends!)

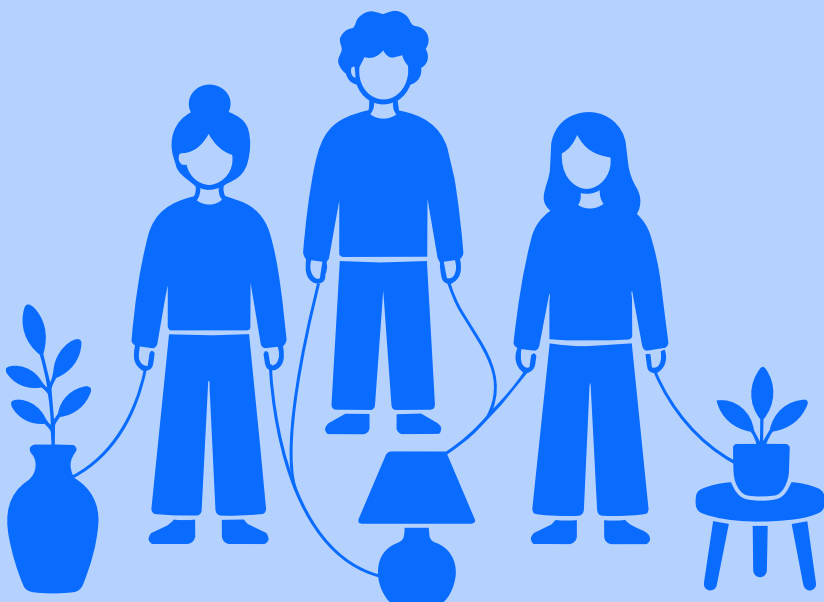


Swap & share

Swap clothes, furniture, or electronics **you no longer use**. If something's broken, **repair** it first. If it still works, **pass it on**. And remember: repair isn't just about objects, saving money or minimizing **waste**. It's also about **community**.

Then, spread the word!

Post your **fixes**. Talk about them. **Laugh** about the **messy** ones. Visible repairs normalize care. And one **shared patch** might inspire someone else to save a jumper from the **bin**.



Your everyday repair toolkit

The background features two large, abstract yellow shapes. One is a large, curved shape on the left side, and the other is a smaller, more angular shape on the right side. They are both a vibrant yellow color and have smooth, rounded edges.

**Don't panic, you don't need
a 40-hour workshop.
Just a starting point**

DIY essentials

1

Needles, thread, patches,
safety pins, screwdrivers,
tape.

*For small fixes you can
do yourself, anytime.*



Online guides & apps

iFixit, YouTube, Instructables,
Repair Café Tips.

*For step-by-step guidance when
you're unsure where to start.*

2



3

Community platforms

Freecycle, Facebook Marketplace, Reddit, Libraries of Things, maker spaces, local tailors and cobblers, online swaps and clothing-care communities.

For borrowing tools, sharing skills, getting help, or passing items on instead of throwing them away.



BONUS:

Choosing circular products, like items made with ECONYL[®] regenerated nylon, supports design meant to last, be regenerated, and return to the loop.





The 7-day repair challenge

Seven days. One small action

Day
1

Stitch something

Pick one garment with a minor flaw (loose button, small tear, fallen hem) and fix it. Use contrasting thread or a colorful patch to make it an accent.

Day
2

Check a gadget

Clean, update, or troubleshoot a **device you use daily**. Try simple fixes first or look up a guide online.

Day
3

Care for an appliance

Deep-clean the coffee maker or descale it with citric acid, clean the refrigerator coils, or replace a light bulb. Small **maintenance** can restore **appliances'** performance.

Day
4

Explore a guide

Spend **30 minutes learning** how to fix something you own. Bookmark one tutorial for when you need it later.

Day
5

Connect with community

Reach out to a repair group, forum, or local Repair Café, asking if anyone fixes [item you need].

Day
6

Upcycle something

Convert one old item into something useful. Tie-dye or refashion a stained tee or turn worn jeans into a tote bag.

Day
7

Reflect & share

Look back at what you fixed and what you learned. **Share** one story, or lesson, to **inspire** someone else.



Embrace
imperfection

A frayed cuff. A patched knee.
A cracked mug.

These aren't flaws. They're proof of life.

So wear your fixes proudly.
Love your golden seams.

And next time something breaks?
You know what to do ;).

Fix it. Don't ditch it.

