



DIVERT NS REPAIR RESOURCE GUIDE

Tips and resources for simple repairs



REPAIR RESOURCE GUIDE



BENEFITS OF REPAIR

Repairing instead of buying new items is a great way to save money and resources. Not only does repairing help keep usable goods out of landfills, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions that are created by manufacturing and transporting new items. Additionally, repairing is an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill and build your knowledge base. By choosing to repair items instead of buying new ones, you can help contribute to the circular economy and reduce waste.

Options for Repair:

1. **Do-It-Yourself (DIY):** Check out your local library or check out online resources for instructions on how to repair a wide range of items.
2. **Visit the experts:** Stop at a local repair business such as a tailor, bike repair shop, small appliance repair shop, or electronics repair shop in your community.
3. **Check out repair events in your community:** Libraries and community organizations often hold repair workshops and tutorials.
4. **Contact the manufacturer:** Manufacturers have information on repair options and replacement parts that can help you keep your item in use.

REPAIR RESOURCES

Divert NS – Search for swap, share, thrift, and repair resources located throughout the province on our Community Resources page.

Circular Economy Month - Offers information about how repair fits into the circular economy, the environmental benefits, and numerous resources that will help you on your repair journey.

ifixit.com - Find online repair guides and resources.

NS Public Libraries - Contact your local library to see what resources and workshops they offer.

Halifax Tool Library & Workshop – The Halifax Tool Library is a nonprofit society that provides borrowing access to an inventory of over 2000 tools and community workshop space to members.

Repair Café - Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together). Check out the Repair Café website to learn more about how to start your own!



TEXTILES

The average Canadian throws away 37 kilograms of textiles each year and in Nova Scotia, textiles take up over 9% of landfill space. We know that most of the textiles that end up in the landfill could have been reused or repaired. Repairing clothing may seem overwhelming, but there are many resources available to help you with simple repairs. Visit your local tailor or seamstress, check our community events and workshops, or search online for DIY guides to textile repair to get started!



How to Extend the Life of Your Clothing

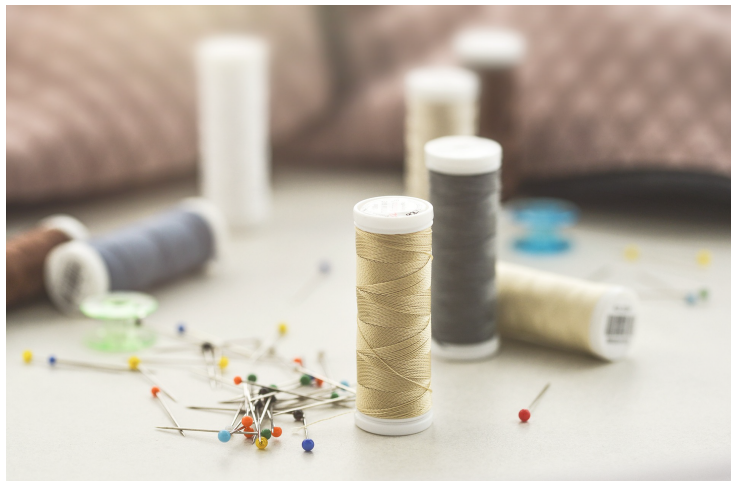
Extending the life of our clothing through maintenance and small repairs helps keep clothing in use for longer and reduces the need to buy brand new. Here are some tips to help you extend the life of your clothing and keep it looking great for longer:

1. **Follow the care instructions:** The care label on your clothing tells you how to properly wash and care for the fabric.
2. **Wash clothing less often:** Over washing clothing can cause them to wear out faster. Instead, try to spot clean stains and air out clothes between wears.
3. **Use cold water:** Washing clothing in cold water is not only better for the environment but also helps preserve the color and shape of the clothing.
4. **Hang dry:** Using a dryer can cause clothing to shrink, fade, and wear out faster. Try hang drying instead to extend the life of your clothing while saving some money on your energy bill!
5. **Store clothing properly:** Folding or hanging clothing properly can help prevent damage. For example, fold heavy sweaters to avoid stretching them out on hangers.



How to Create a Textile Repair Kit

Create your own textile repair kit so that you can complete easy repairs at home! Below is a list of some things you'll need to build your own kit:



- 1. Container:** You need something to hold all your supplies, an old shoebox or cookie tin will work perfectly.
- 2. Needles:** You'll want to have a variety of needles on hand, different repairs require different types of needles.
- 3. Thread:** Start with a few colours of thread that match the main colours of your wardrobe, as well as some neutral colours.
- 4. Scissors:** A good pair of fabric scissors is essential for any textile repair kit.
- 5. Tape measure:** Make sure you have a sewing tape measure that is flexible for measuring fabric or taking body measurements.
- 6. Pins:** You'll need plenty of pins to hold fabric in place as you're sewing. Look for ones with large heads that are easy to see and handle.
- 7. Pin cushion:** Pin cushions are essential to hold all of your pins when they are not in use.
- 8. Seam ripper:** Mistakes happen, and a seam ripper will help you fix them. Look for one with a sharp blade that can easily remove stitches without damaging the fabric.
- 9. Spare buttons:** It's always good to have different types of buttons on hand, you never know what type you might need for a repair!
- 10. Thimble:** Don't poke yourself with a needle! Grab a thimble to prevent needle pokes.
- 11. Iron-on patches:** These can be a quick and easy fix for small holes or tears. Look for patches that are easy to apply and come in a variety of colors.
- 12. Fabric glue:** Fabric glue can be used when you need to fix a seam or hem quickly. Look for one that dries clear and is safe for use on a variety of fabrics.



THE FIX-IT SERIES



Divert NS' Fix-It Series: Textile Repair Videos

The following videos were created to show some simple textile repairs that don't require a sewing machine or sewing experience.

Build Your Own Textile Repair Kit:

<https://divertns.ca/learn/videos/fix-it-series-how-create-sewing-kit>

Learn How to Sew a Button: <https://divertns.ca/learn/videos/fix-it-series-how-sew-button>

Learn How to Patch a Hole: <https://divertns.ca/learn/videos/fix-it-series-how-patch-hole>

Learn How to Mend a Tear: <https://divertns.ca/learn/videos/fix-it-series-how-mend-tear>

Ready for a bigger project but need a sewing machine? Many local libraries have sewing machines to help with all your rips, tears, and button repairs. Visit your local library to see what they have to offer!

Even when your favourite clothing items can't be repaired, you may be able to give them a new life as something else. Check out this video for some ideas on re-purposing textiles.





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SMALL APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS REPAIR

Repairing is an easy way to make sure useable items stay out of the landfill and luckily, there are many small businesses in Nova Scotia that provide repair services. Or if you're looking to try your hand at repair, there are many resources online that can guide you through a small appliance or electronics repair.

ifixit: Find thousands of step-by-step repair guides, shop tools and fix-it kits, and join a community of repair enthusiasts through ifixit.

BIKE REPAIR

By taking care of your bike through regular maintenance and repairs, you can ensure years of safe and fun rides. Visit your local bike shop for bike repairs and maintenance, or check out this guide for common bike repairs that you can do at home!

Or check out this list of bike maintenance resources.

How to Extend the Life of Your Tools

Tools are expensive to buy and replace. Proper tool care can extend the life of your tools, saving you money, and reducing waste in the process. Here are some tips on how to maintain your tools properly:

- 1. Clean and dry your tools after use:** Dirt and moisture can cause rust, which can damage your tools. Wipe them down with a dry cloth and store them in a dry place.
- 2. Lubricate moving parts:** Moving parts such as hinges, gears, and blades should be lubricated regularly to prevent them from sticking or wearing down.
- 3. Sharpen blades and edges:** Dull blades or edges can cause damage to your tools and make them less effective. Keep them sharp by using a sharpening stone or taking them to a professional tool sharpener.
- 4. Use tools for their intended purpose:** Misusing tools can cause them to break or wear down faster. Use the right tool for the job and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5. Store tools properly:** Store your tools in a dry and secure place. Keep them away from moisture, heat, and direct sunlight.

