The Londoner’s guide to repair

#RepairWeekLDN
Recycling is great, but to have the biggest effect on reducing waste, we need to cut down on the amount of stuff we buy, and maintain and repair the things that still have plenty of life left in them.

We’ve selected some of our favourite repair hacks for you...
ELECTRICALS

Mobile phones are the most common item that Londoners get repaired.

Thanks to Currys PC World repair team for these tips:

PC running slow?
Give your hard drive space to breathe.
Try running a ‘Disk Cleanup’ (Windows) to remove leftover redundant files. Sort your files and folders in order of size using ‘WinDirStat’ (Windows) so you can see what’s taking up the space.

TV sound funny?
Try different sources: DVD, set-top box, games console. If the problem only affects one source, then it’s likely to be down to how that source is connected - check the cables and connections. If that fails, head to the factory reset to restore all the sound settings.

Mobile phones are the most common item that Londoners get repaired.
ELECTRICALS

Fuzzy TV picture?

It may be caused by interference. Try putting a sheet of aluminium foil between any electronics that are stacked on top of each other (like your satellite receiver box, DVD player and games console).

Blocked headphone port on your smartphone?

Gently push a cotton bud into the port. Twist to wipe away grime and dirt.
Thanks to RubyMoon for the following tips:

**Textiles**

**Repair Fact**
11 million items of clothing end up in landfill each year in the UK!

Prolong the life of your activewear.

Handwashing your swim and activewear will make it last longer.
Always wash in cold water (below 35C) as heat damages threads and weakens elastic. A 30-minute pre-soak in cold water and baking soda will help shift grime and dirt.

Let your swimwear relax.

After washing, lay your swimwear out flat to dry and then make sure you keep them in a shady, dark place, as exposure to light can cause colours to fade over time.

1 million items of clothing end up in landfill each year in the UK!
Thanks to Save Your Wardrobe for these aftercare tips:

**Bring your knitwear back to life.**

*Use a comb to de-pill your cashmere and wool clothes.*

Do not pull the pills off with your fingers and do not use a razor or scissors as it damages the fiber. Instead, gently use a cashmere comb and your clothes will look as good as new.

Secret tip: Instead of washing them, put your cashmere and natural fiber clothes in the freezer for a couple of hours!

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**Is your suede worse for wear?**

*Use a nail file to remove dirt from suede.*

File the suede shoes or bag in the areas of dirt or clouding to bring it back to life and remove the stains!
TEXTILES

And thanks to Super Looper for these great suggestions:

Freeze don’t wash!

Only wash clothes when you absolutely have to.

Did you know that the best way to freshen up denim, gym wear or fluffy jumpers is to pop them into a bag and freeze them? This gets rid of bacteria and therefore any stale smells without damaging the fibres! Good for killing moth larvae too!

Get out tough make-up stains.

Remove ink or make-up stains on cotton fabric with normal white toothpaste!

Rub a pea size piece on the stain, rinse and repeat as many times as you need until it’s gone. It’s also great for whitening trainers!
Toes poking out of your socks?

Don’t throw them away, get darning! It’s easier than you think, and if you don’t have a darning egg, a tennis ball will work just as well.

Check out Socko (socko.shop) who are on a mission to get us mending our socks rather than throwing them away.

Socko has created some fantastic how-to guides to teach the lost art of darning, and every pair of socks they sell from their Originals collection comes with a swatch of contrasting colour yarn (it’s all about visible mending) and a darning needle. Cozy!

Rubber midsoles of your trainers looking grubby?

Raid your stationery drawer, grab an eraser and get rubbing - they’ll be white again in no time!

Fixing a hem can be easy!

Fixing a hem is super-easy and doesn’t require any sewing skills. Just pick up some hemming tape from your local supermarket and use an iron to fix it in place.
HOMEWARE

90% of Londoners aged over 55 think we are losing repair skills that used to be commonplace.

Struggling to get paint off your hands?
Next time, rub Vaseline onto them before you pick up the brush or roller. The paint will slide off with ease.

Re-sealing a bath?
Replacing the silicone around a bath is a simple job. But make sure you half fill the bath with water first. The weight of the water will ensure the sealant won’t crack when the bath is used later.

Can’t remove an old screw?
If the screw-head looks damaged, try laying an elastic band over the top and press the screwdriver down onto the elastic band. It works!
Sticky lock?
Draw onto the key with a pencil - get lots of graphite from the pencil lead onto the key; the more the better. Insert the key into the lock, give it a wiggle. Repeat if necessary until the lock frees up.

You’ve nailed it!
Always have nails and screws easily to hand when DIYing. Put a small magnet in your shirt pocket and hey presto - screws and nails will stick to you like magic!

Fixing a dripping tap?
First thing you need to do is to put the plug into the sink - that’ll stop screws and other small parts falling down the plug hole.
BICYCLES

Over two thirds (69%) of Londoners say they would repair more of their household items and possessions if they knew how.

Use toothbrushes on your chain.

Tape two old toothbrushes together (with the heads facing each other) and voila! A perfect tool for cleaning your bicycle chain.

Cleaning can save you money!

Bicycle chains and sprockets aren’t cheap to replace, so save yourself some money by regularly cleaning and lubricating the chain, cogs and pedals. The more often you do it, the less time it takes.
BICYCLES

Think you’ve got a puncture?
Locate punctures by inflating the affected item (bicycle tyre, paddling pool, jumbo inflatable unicorn etc.) and submerging it under water. Look out for air bubbles which will indicate the exact spot of the puncture.

Invest in a torque wrench.
Bicycles are held together entirely by nuts and bolts. Regularly make sure they’re all nice and tight, but not too tight or you’ll damage the threads. To be sure, you could invest in a handy torque wrench.

Handlebars seen better days?
Re-wrapping them with handlebar tape is a really simple job and they’ll look as good as new. Then move on to rewrap your tennis racket, badminton racket, squash racket...
FEELING INSPIRED?

We hope those tips, tricks and hacks have whetted your appetite for repair. Keep an eye on our @londonrecyclesuk social media channels during Repair Week for more handy do-it-yourself, three-step hacks.

Let us know your favourite, or share your own nuggets of wisdom, with our hashtag #RepairWeekLDN
And finally....

When embarking on a repair job remember to enjoy yourself!

Embrace the challenges - mistakes are part of the learning process. Take your time, be kind to yourself and look forward to being able to say ‘I did that!’.

As they say, life is about the journey, not the destination...
Repair directory

Here’s our mini directory of **shops, community schemes and projects** you can go to in London to get your things repaired.

Don’t forget to nominate your favourite **local repair shop** so we can continue to grow our directory! Tweet us @londonrecycles using the #LondonRepairHeroes hashtag, DM us on Facebook and Instagram @londonrecyclesuk or send us a message using the contact form on our website londonrecycles.co.uk/contact
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| The Net Store         | Barking & Dagenham | 701 Green Lane, Dagenham, RM8 1UU           | Website: thenetstore.co.uk  
Email: netstorescan@hotmail.co.uk  
Phone: 020 8597 7026 | Can repair laptops, phones, ipads                      |
| 3 Gee’s Electronics   | Brent       | 141 Harrowdene Road, Wembley, HA0 2JH       | Website: 3geeselectronics.com  
Email: info@3geeselectronics.com  
Phone: 020 8115 8670 | Repair a wide range of electrical and household items   |
| Automatica            | Bexley      | 6 Station Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3QA     | Website: automaticauk.co.uk  
Email: automatica-uk@supanet.com  
Phone: 01322 523 109 | Repairing white goods and home appliances since 1964  |
| Hackney Fixers        | Hackney     | Various venues across Hackney               | Website: hackneyfixers.org.uk  
Email: info@hackneyfixers.org.uk  
Twitter: @hackneyfixers  
Facebook: @hackneyfixers | Run events where you can go along and learn more about repairs |

**Electricals**

**London repair shops**
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iSmash</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Stores all around london</td>
<td>Website: ismash.com</td>
<td>Express repair service for smartphones, tablets and computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo Phones</td>
<td>Lambeth</td>
<td>108 Waterloo Road, SE1 8SG</td>
<td>Website: waterloophones.co.uk Phone: 020 3952 6392 Email: <a href="mailto:info@waterloophones.co.uk">info@waterloophones.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Mobile phone, computer and laptop repair services and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani Appliances Sales and Repairs</td>
<td>Lambeth</td>
<td>228 Brixton Road, SW9 6AH</td>
<td>Website: aniappliances.co.uk Phone: 020 7274 7111 Facebook: @AniAppliancesSalesandRepairs</td>
<td>Home appliance repairs, installation and sales. In-home and in-shop repairs and installations services offered</td>
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Check out The Restart Project’s electronic repair directory for businesses in north and east London. Website: therestartproject.org/repairdirectory
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<tr>
<td>The Sew London Project</td>
<td>Barking &amp; Dagenham</td>
<td>62-76 Abbey Road, Barking, IG11 7BT</td>
<td>Website: sewlondonproject.co.uk Email: <a href="mailto:info@sewlondonproject.co.uk">info@sewlondonproject.co.uk</a> Phone: 07449 035 216</td>
<td>A social enterprise set up in 2015 to teach children and adults how to upcycle, sew and craft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karolina Priscila</td>
<td>Brent</td>
<td>Covers the Queen’s Park, Maida Vale and West Hampstead areas</td>
<td>Website: karolinapriscila.com Email: <a href="mailto:hi@karolinapriscila.com">hi@karolinapriscila.com</a> Instagram: @dressmaker_karolina Facebook: @karolina.priscila</td>
<td>From tailoring a perfect dress to repairing a moth-eaten jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maz Tailoring</td>
<td>Ealing</td>
<td>13 Horn Lane, Acton, W3 9NJ</td>
<td>Website: maztailoring.com Phone: 020 8106 2536 Email: <a href="mailto:maztailoring@hotmail.com">maztailoring@hotmail.com</a> Instagram: @maztailors.uk</td>
<td>Tailoring and alteration services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moody Bright Designs</td>
<td>Hackney</td>
<td></td>
<td>Website: moodybrightdesigns.co.uk Email: <a href="mailto:info@moodybrightdesigns.co.uk">info@moodybrightdesigns.co.uk</a> Instagram: @moodybrightdesigns Facebook: @moodybrightdesigns</td>
<td>DIY mending with embroidery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Seam</td>
<td>Hackney</td>
<td>8 Median Road, Lower Clapton, E5 0PL</td>
<td>Website: theseam.uk Phone: 07845 701 951 Email: <a href="mailto:support@theseam.uk">support@theseam.uk</a></td>
<td>Register as a seamstress or find one near you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrications</td>
<td>Hackney</td>
<td>7 Broadway Market E8 4PH</td>
<td>Website: fabrications1.co.uk Phone: 020 7275 8043 Email: <a href="mailto:barley@fabrications1.co.uk">barley@fabrications1.co.uk</a> Instagram: @fabricationshackney Facebook: @Fabrications</td>
<td>One-stop-shop for locally sourced, ethical knitting and sewing supplies, sell unique upcycled items and teach sewing.</td>
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| Snow White Dry Cleaner| Islington              | 173 Holloway Road N7 8LX              | Website: snowhitedrycleaner.co.uk  
Phone: 020 7607 4598  
Contact form: http://www.snowhitedrycleaner.co.uk/contact  
Twitter: @snowhitedryc | Dry cleaner which also offers an alterations and repair service |
| Thimble               | Kensington & Chelsea    | 24 Thackeray Street, Kensington, W8 5ET | Website: thimbletailoring.com  
Phone: 020 7938 1161  
Email: tailor@thimbletailoring.com | Wide variety of clothing repairs including: seam mending, relining, restyling, repairing delicate vintage items |
| Fast Stitch           | Kingston and Richmond   | Three stores in Kingston and Richmond town centres | Website: fast-stitch.co.uk | Legendary local alteration and repairs service |
| Kokobina Clothing     | Lambeth                 | 11 Reliance Arcade, Brixton Road, SW9 8JZ | Phone: 020 7274 6314  
Facebook: @kokobinabrixton | A small workshop offering garment repairs, alterations and bespoke clothes |
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<tr>
<td>Fairisle’s Fix It</td>
<td>Lambeth</td>
<td>34 Norwood High Street, Norwood, SE27 9NR</td>
<td>Phone: 020 8676 4145 Email: <a href="mailto:fairisle@hotmail.co.uk">fairisle@hotmail.co.uk</a> Facebook: @FairislesFixIt</td>
<td>Clothing and textiles repair, alteration and remodelling services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Stitch</td>
<td>Merton</td>
<td>281 The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19 1SD</td>
<td>Website: qualitystitchlondon.co.uk Phone: 020 8417 8366 Email: <a href="mailto:info@qualitystitchlondon.co.uk">info@qualitystitchlondon.co.uk</a> Facebook: @qualitystitchwimbledon Instagram: @stitchquality</td>
<td>High quality alterations and repairs to clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vassos Shoe Repairs</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>47 Church Street, Marylebone, NW8 8ES</td>
<td>Phone: 020 7224 9624</td>
<td>Shoe repair and clothes alterations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James of London</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>32 Upper Tachbrook Street, Pimlico, SW1V 1SW</td>
<td>Phone: 020 7630 6596</td>
<td>Men’s tailoring, alterations and repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidcup Cycle</td>
<td>Bexley</td>
<td>141 Station Road,</td>
<td>Phone: 020 8300 8113</td>
<td>Founded in the 19th Century, as Chaz F Hill, Sidcup Cycle Centre has been a part of South East London’s history for four generations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sidcup, DA15 7AB</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@sidcupcycles.co.uk">info@sidcupcycles.co.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Instagram: @sidcupcycles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Facebook: @sidcupcycles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycletastic</td>
<td>Brent</td>
<td>Streatley Road, Kilburn, NW6 7ST</td>
<td>Website: cycletastic.org.uk</td>
<td>Not-for-Profit voluntary organization for people of all ages. Provide bicycle repair, maintenance and opportunities to volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(behind Advice 4 Renters, 36-38 Willesden Lane)</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@cycletastic.org.uk">info@cycletastic.org.uk</a></td>
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London repair shops

Bicycles
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle King</td>
<td>Brent</td>
<td>173 Hillside, Wembley, NW10 8LL</td>
<td>Website: cycleking.co.uk/bike-shop-wembley Phone: 020 8965 5544 Facebook: @cyclekinguk Twitter: @cyclekinguk</td>
<td>Bike repairs and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud 9 Cycles</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>38 Store Street, Bloomsbury, WC1E 7DB</td>
<td>Website: cloud9cycles.com Phone: 020 3205 0190 Email: <a href="mailto:info@cloud9cycles.com">info@cloud9cycles.com</a> Instagram: @cloud9cycles</td>
<td>Full workshop that services all bikes, wheel building facilities, bike fitting and frame building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle Confident</td>
<td>Operate across London</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Website: cycleconfident.com Phone: 020 3031 6730 Email: <a href="mailto:contact@cycleconfident.com">contact@cycleconfident.com</a></td>
<td>Provide some free cycling and maintenance courses in collaboration with local councils</td>
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# London repair shops

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| Beatroute Cycles   | Ealing   | Magenta Self Storage Acton, 54-58 Stanley Gardens, W3 7SZ | Website: beatroutecycles.com  
Phone: 07732 873 469  
Email: info@beatroutecycles.com  
All Socials: @BeatrouteCycles | Specialise in bike and wheel building, maintenance training and top quality servicing |
| About the Bike     | Hackney  | 124 Dalston Lane, E8 1NG                       | Website: aboutthebike.co.uk  
Phone: 020 7254 2513  
Facebook: @dalstonbike  
Instagram: @aboutthebike | A practical bike repair and spares shop. Fix bikes and carry a huge range of components. Punctures repaired on the spot |
| Look Mum no Hands  | Islington| 49 Old Street, EC1V 9HX                         | Website: lookmumnohands.com  
Phone: 020 7253 1025  
Email: info@lookmumnohands.com  
Facebook: @lookmumnohands  
Instagram: @lookmumnohands | Café, bar and bicycle workshop |
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| Cyclecare Kensington      | Kensington & Chelsea | 54 Earls Court Road, Kensington, W8 6EJ | Website: cyclecarekensington.myshopify.com  
Phone: 020 7460 0495  
Email: cyclecarekensington54@gmail.com  
Facebook: @cyclecarekensington | Fully equipped bicycle workshop in the heart of Kensington, where all kinds of repairs and servicing can be performed |
| Brixton Cycles            | Lambeth          | 296-298 Brixton Road, SW9 6AG          | Website: brixtoncycles.co.uk  
Phone: 020 7733 6055  
Email: sales@brixtoncycles.co.uk  
All Socials: @brixtoncycles | An independent workers’ cooperative bike shop, offering repairs and sales |
| De Ver Cycles             | Lambeth          | 632-636 Streatham High Road, SW16 3QL  | Website: devercycles.co.uk  
Phone: 020 8679 6197  
Email: devercycle@aol.com  
All Socials: @devercycles | Family bike shop, offering bicycle repair and service |
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| Moose Cycles        | Merton       | 48 High Street, Colliers Wood, SW19 2BY       | Website: moosecycles.com  
Phone: 020 8544 9166  
Email: info@moosecycles.com  
Facebook: @MooseCycles  
Instagram: @MooseCycles | Independent bicycle dealer with full workshop servicing facilities |
<p>| Fudges Cycle Store  | Westminster  | 564-566 Harrow Road, W9 3QH                  | Website: fudgescyclestore.com                       | Independent, family-run business with three stores in London and Surrey    |</p>
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</table>
| RePurpose Shop    | Greenwich | Magpie House, 5 Magpie Lane, SE28 0FP | Website: repurposethat.org  
Phone: 020 83 11 6680  
Email: hello@repurposethat.org  
Facebook: @RepurposeThat  
Instagram: @repurpose.gbch | Sells repaired goods.  
All profits go to the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice |
| Restoration Station | Hackney | 116-118 Shoreditch High Street, Hackney, E1 6JN | Website: www.sct.org.uk/social-enterprises/restoration-station/  
Facebook: @recoverypathway  
Instagram: @spitalfieldsencrypttrust | East London based charity that repairs furniture and offers training and support to people with drug or alcohol addictions and complex needs |
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| Goldfinger Factory | Kensington & Chelsea  | 13-15 Golborne Road, W10 5NY   | Website: goldfingerfactory.com  
Phone: 020 3302 0900,  
Email: info@goldfingerfactory.com  
Instagram: @goldfingerfactory | Educates people in craft and sustainable woodworking through the Goldfinger Academy          |
| Kennington Upholster | Lambeth               | 122 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE | Website: kenningtonupholstery.com  
Phone: 07440 209 387  
Email: info@kenningtonupholstery.com  
Facebook: KenningtonUpholsteryStudio  
Twitter: @Kennington_Upho | A Kennington based studio offering furniture restoration and bespoke upholstery services   |
| Roseberry House Restoration | Lambeth             | Based in Brixton | Website: roseberryhouse.co.uk  
Phone: 07971 965 261  
Email: info@roseberryhouse.co.uk  
Facebook: @roseberryhouserestoration  
Instagram: @roseberryhouserestoration | Offering furniture repair and restoration on both modern and classic pieces                 |
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| Able & Ryan Ltd       | Merton  | 4 Merton Park Parade, SW19 3NT    | Website: ableandryan.co.uk  
|                       |         |                                   | Phone: 020 8545 0655  
|                       |         |                                   | Email: mail@ableandryan.co.uk  
|                       |         |                                   | All Socials: @ableandryan    | Furniture restoration       |
| Wimbledon Upholsterers | Merton  | 57A Queen’s Road, SW19 8NY        | Phone: 020 8543 2433                                      | Furniture repair and restoration |