

Intro to Activity


In a way too convenient world, where over-consumption and planned obsolescence make it easier to just buy new, hosting a repair café is a powerful way to cut down on waste, preserving precious natural resources and building community. At a repair café, volunteer "fixers" work alongside community members to repair clothes or broken household items, anything from furniture to electronics. This is a hands-on, intergenerational activity that also doubles as a skill-share, as fixers offer their expertise to community members, whether in sewing or mechanics, or even carpentry.



Prepping for Your Repair Café

Volunteer Recruitment:

- Recruit skilled volunteer fixers: sewers, small-appliance and electronics repair, woodworkers, bicycle mechanics, and jewelers
- Reach out to trade schools, local crafters, hardware stores, and on community bulletin boards
- Use a simple sign-up form so fixers can list their specialties ahead of time, so you'll know what types of repairs to advertise to the community

 **QUICK TIPS** Meetinghouses, public libraries, and community centers are options for free meeting locations

Supply Checklist

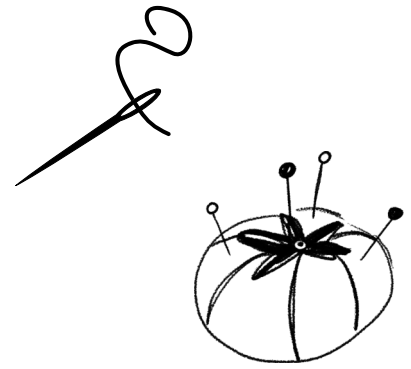
- Basic tool kit: a hammer, a multi-bit screwdriver, a tape measure, an adjustable wrench, pliers, utility knives, a level, for example
- Sewing machines
- Basic safety gear: gloves, safety glasses
- Tables, chairs, extension cords, and power strips
- Sign-in sheets with an item intake section



 **QUICK TIPS** See if volunteers can bring any of their own supplies

Sample Run of Show

Time	Segment	Description
0:00 - 0:15	Gathering & Opening	Welcome participants, and have them fill out an intake sheet when they arrive, with their name and item they brought for repair. Begin with a brief silent worship or reflection on our testimonies (<i>Simplicity, Integrity, or Stewardship</i>). Divide up into pairs.
0:15 - 0:30	Event Overview	Explain how a repair café works, and introduce each fixer and station. Discuss the environmental impacts of overconsumption and the community benefits of a repair culture.
0:30 - 2:00	Repair Sessions	Guests bring items to fixers in order of Intake form responses. Take photos along the way and encourage questions and skill-sharing.
2:00 - 2:15	Celebrate!	Tally the number of items repaired and estimate the waste diverted from the landfill. Take a moment to celebrate the collective effort.
2:15 - 2:30	Blessing & Closing	Gather in a circle and share gratitude for the volunteer fixers. Close with a prayer or moment of silent gratitude for the gift of community.



Tips & Resources

- www.ifixit.com: Free repair tutorials with step-by-step instructions for electronics & appliances
- <https://www.repaircafe.org/>: Helpful tips and tricks for launching a repair café in your community and a map of repair cafés across the globe
- <https://www.repair.org/>: Advocacy and resources on the right to repair movement