

Don't Toss It, Fix It—with Pop-Up Repair Shop

Source: mnn.com

Published: March 12, 2014



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When I spotted the "itinerant [repair service](#) for household goods of all types," [Pop-Up Repair](#), I cheered.

I grew up fixing stuff, and I still do so. I credit my grandma, who, being old-school, was a fixer herself. You learn from your parents, and mine taught me that lamps, cassette players, and yes, even our aged lawnmower could be repaired with a little time and attention. (I became quite talented in small engine repair by the time I was 12.)

I didn't realize that people threw perfectly good things away for lack of a switch or need of a new plug (or sometimes just a spray of WD-40) until I was in college, and saw perfectly good stuff trashed because it was "broken."

Now I understand that being a fixer makes me a minority in today's American population.

But the recession — and consciousness about the incredible volume of stuff that Americans throw away — has brought attention back to the old-fashioned idea of fixing things. Enter [Pop-](#)

[Up Repair](#), which takes the pop-up concept (usually seen in association with disposable fashion brands) and extends it to repair. For the bulk of March, the duo behind the idea will be in Brooklyn, but for the rest of the spring, they'll be traveling to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

They asked the question: "How many people would fix something if they could?" It turns out, plenty. See video below:

See video https://youtu.be/m_MnTo1GzWk

Pop Up Repair is an intervention in the cycle of use-and-discard consumerism. For four weeks in June 2013, a group of theater artists activated a storefront repair shop, fixing household objects brought in by members of the community. The pop-up shop is the experimental first step in a larger research project investigating our relationships with the objects we use every day: what they mean, what they're worth, and why we repair and reuse instead of buying new.

Not only does repair keep stuff out of landfills and save us money, it makes repairers and repairees feel good; there's such a feeling of accomplishment in taking something from 'broken' to 'fixed.'

They launched the project with this video [CLICK HERE](#) –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_MnTo1GzWk#action=share
