

What is Right to Repair?

Right to Repair ensures that consumers and independent repair shops are able to repair a diverse range of goods, including, but not limited to, agriculture machinery, mobile phones, cars and household appliances.

Right to Repair as a movement is gaining ground. The reason? Manufacturers are making it increasingly difficult, expensive and/or impossible for non-manufacturer authorized service providers to repair goods.



How can manufacturers impede Right to Repair?

Manufacturers have a number of roadblocks that they can erect to keep outsiders from repairing their goods. These include, but are not limited to:

- Use of proprietary diagnostic software, tools and parts,
- Use of copyright laws,
- Refusal to sell replacement parts,
- Non-disclosure of repair manuals,
- Use of digital rights management software, and
- Making the cost of repair and / or replacement parts more expensive than buying something new.



POTENTIAL DOWNFALLS OF (NO) RIGHT TO REPAIR!

- Lack of fair and competitive markets for all manufactured products and goods.
- More goods disposed of when repair costs are too high and/or are made less accessible. This means more waste in landfills.
- Can lead to the establishment of monopolies by original equipment manufacturers.
- Consumers have limited choice in where they take the products *they own* to be repaired.



Take Apple Inc. for example



Apple has been stepping up their lobbying efforts to make sure the Right to Repair legislation does not pass in a number of states.

Apple has practices in place, including the use of proprietary screws, which make it difficult for non-authorized service providers to repair Apple products.

This creates accessibility problems: “The problem hits rural areas especially hard. If you’re among the 2 million people who live in Nebraska, don’t let anything happen to your iPhone. The state has exactly one Apple store.” (Wired, 2017)

Why have your old Apple product fixed when it’s cheaper to buy the next generation: “Their repair service for the iPod Shuffle is more expensive than a new iPod.” (ifixit.org)

REMEMBER!

“You bought it. You own it.”

— *ifixit.org*

“Your car. Your data. Your choice.”

— *Auto Care Association*

For more information, contact Automotive Industries Association of Canada:
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