

Environmental Tip of the Month

October 2021 Andrew Hollett

Repairing Your Stuff at Home

At the Climate Change Sub-Committee, as you might imagine, we have had lots of discussions about waste and how to deal with it. One area we have considered is what to do with broken things, which could mean simple household goods, such as tools, furniture, etc. to more complex technologies, such as washing machines, fridges, computers, etc.

There are probably four possible things to do with a broken object:

- Throw it away, (through recycling) and do without it
- Throw it away and buy a new one
- Get it repaired professionally
- Repair it yourself.

We would like to encourage the last option, but first remember this:

- **Electricity Kills!**

- Don't attempt to repair an electrical device without unplugging it.
- If you are replacing a light bulb in a table or standard lamp, unplug it first.
- If you are replacing a light bulb in a fixed fitting, turn off the Circuit Breaker in your Consumer Unit.
- Most injuries that happen when people are electrocuted while changing a light bulb are not caused by the electrocution, but by them falling off the ladder or often a chair. NEVER use a chair.
- If you are unsure, dealing with electricity, don't do it.



If you want to find out where to get spare parts, I will recommend two websites which also have very helpful videos for some repairs:

<https://www.buyspares.co.uk/>

<https://www.espares.co.uk/>

There are also a lot of videos on YouTube, but be cautious, not everything you see there will be safe.

Good luck with your repairs and please share your own home repair experiences in the Holbeton News.