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| Hbold600pxw | Hennepin County Environment and Energy **News**612-348-3777 • environment@hennepin.us [www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](http://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)701 Fourth Ave. S., Suite 700, Minneapolis, MN 55415 |

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Last updated: January 2016

Subject: Repair tips learned at Fix-It Clinics

**Sample Newsletter Article**

**Repair tips from handy Fix-It Clinic volunteers**

At monthly Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix their items. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.

After helping hundreds of residents get their broken household items back in working order, the handy volunteers at Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics have gained some valuable insights into common repair issues. Here are some of their fixing tips:

**Don’t be afraid to take it apart**

One of the first things to overcome is the fear of taking something apart. Remember, the item is already broken, so there’s no harm in trying to fix it. Plus, troubleshooting and fixing things is challenging and fun! There are generally three outcomes when you take something apart:

* 1. You fix it!
	2. You get lost in the disassembly. Prevent this by being methodical in your disassembly and taking lots of pictures to help you put it back together.
	3. You make the problem worse. If you hit a dead end, search for help online or bring the item in to a Fix-it Clinic for assistance. There’s a wide variety of replacement parts you can find online or at a local hardware store.

**Repair and purchasing tips**

* Items that seem broken often just need to be cleaned.
* You will need tools and some knowledge of how to use them in order to fix things. You don’t necessarily need a lot of specialty tools – a basic toolset can go a long way.
* Look for replacement parts. Many items stop working due to one broken part that is relatively inexpensive to replace. You may be surprised by the variety of replacement parts you can find online or at a local hardware store.
* Invest in good-quality household items and consumer goods. Higher quality items are likely to last longer, making them less expensive and less of a hassle in the long run.
* Consider the ability to repair an item when purchasing it, including how feasible it is to take the item apart and how well-made the components are.
* Some things that are broken may not be worth fixing. Examples include old, energy-hogging appliances like mini-fridges and dehumidifiers as well as outdated electronics such as computers that cannot run on current operating systems. Make sure to properly dispose of these items. Search the [Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide](http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide) for options.

For more information, visit [*www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic*](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic) or call Hennepin County Environmental Environment and Energy at 612-348-3777.

**Sample Web Story**

**Fix-it Clinics – Repair Tips**

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After helping hundreds of residents get their broken household items back in working order, the handy volunteers at Fix-It Clinics have gained some valuable insights into common repair issues. Here are some of their fixing tips:

* Don’t be afraid to take it apart.One of the first things to overcome is the fear of taking something apart. Remember, the item is already broken, so there’s no harm in trying to fix it.
* Items that seem broken often just need to be cleaned.
* You will need tools and some knowledge of how to use them in order to fix things. You don’t necessarily need a lot of specialty tools – a basic toolset can go a long way.
* Look for replacement parts. Many items stop working due to one broken part that is relatively inexpensive to replace.
* Invest in good-quality household items and consumer goods. Higher quality items are likely to last longer, making them less expensive and less of a hassle in the long run.
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For more information, visit [*www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic*](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic) or call Hennepin County Environment and Energy at 612-348-3777.

**Sample Social Media Posts**

*Connect with Hennepin County Environment and Energy on Facebook at* [*www.twitter.com/hennepinenviro*](http://www.twitter.com/hennepinenviro) *(@hennepinenviro).* [*www.facebook.com/hennepinenvironment*](http://www.facebook.com/hennepinenvironment) *and Twitter at*

**Facebook:**

At monthly Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix their items. Learn more at [www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic).

[Fix-it Clinic](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic) volunteers say one of the first things to overcome is the fear of taking something apart. Remember, the item is already broken, so there’s no harm in trying to fix it.

Consider the ability to repair an item when purchasing it, including how feasible it is to take the item apart and how well-made the components are.

**Twitter:**

Consider the ability to repair an item when purchasing it, think of how feasible it is to take apart and how well-made the components are.

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[Fix-it Clinic](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic) volunteers say invest in good-quality household items and consumer goods.

**Additional Promotional Materials**

[Fix-it Clinic flyer](http://www.hennepin.us/~/media/hennepinus/residents/recycling/fix-it-clinics/FixItClinicflyer.pdf)