

California's New Right to Repair Law

In July 2024, California's Right to Repair Act ([SB 244](#)) goes into effect, a significant advancement for the right-to-repair movement. This law requires electronics and appliance manufacturers to supply necessary parts, tools, and documentation for repairs to both independent repair shops and product owners.

California is now the third state in the country to enact a digital right to repair law. The law paves the way for additional states to follow suit in providing their citizens with the right to fix their electronic devices by a repair servicer of their choosing rather than being forced to go through the device manufacturer.

About the Law:

- Manufacturers must supply parts, tools, software and documentation to aid in repairs for all devices over \$50, with a few exceptions such as video game systems and alarm systems.
- Manufacturers must continue to provide access to these resources for up to seven years after the manufacture date, or three years for less expensive devices.
- The law retroactively covers electronic devices first sold or used in the state back to July 2021.
- Penalties for non-compliance include fines of up to \$5,000 per day.

Benefits of the Right to Repair Act:

- **Consumer savings:** In addition to avoiding the purchase of a new device, consumers can choose independent repair services which can be less expensive than services offered by the manufacturer.
- **Environmental impact:** Keeping products in service via repair greatly reduces harmful e-waste, and also reduces the need for mining rare earth minerals and other toxic manufacturing processes.
- **Economic support:** Local repair shops are likely to experience growth due to increased demand for their services, keeping resources in the local economy.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Participating in a local repair event is a great way to build your own repair skills and fix your broken items with the support of knowledgeable volunteers. StopWaste maintains a [calendar of repair events](#) happening in Alameda County.
- In addition, our [RE:Source guide](#) provides a searchable list of hundreds of local repair shops where you can take your item to have it repaired.



The Right to Repair law requires that manufacturers provide equitable access to three essential resources for repair:



Parts: This includes components such as phone screens, computer batteries, and parts for household appliances like dishwashers.



Tools: Examples include specialized screwdrivers, and software used for diagnostics or to pair new parts with existing systems.



Information: This category encompasses repair guides like service manuals and technical schematics.

Fair Access: In addition, manufacturers must supply these resources at the cost they would typically charge their own authorized repair providers.

Between 2014 and 2020, greenhouse gas emissions from e-waste, largely due to mining, manufacturing and transportation, rose by 53%. Extending electronic devices' lifespans by 50-100% through reuse and repair could halve these emissions. This approach is vital for the electronics industry, a major global carbon contributor, to achieve climate neutrality.

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