

# REPAIR: ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOURS NATIONAL SURVEY 2022

Consumer Rights; Part 1 of 5 Series

EPA Circular Economy Programme and B&A

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME**The Driving Force for Ireland's Move to a Circular Economy







# Overview of survey

Behavioural insight is a foundation of the EPA's Circular Economy Programme, providing evidence to inform policy, to inform behavioural change interventions and to inform awareness campaigns.

The EPA contracted Behaviour & Attitudes (B&A) to carry out this quantitative research which is the first nationally representative baseline survey on Irish citizens' attitudes, awareness and behaviours relating to repair. The fieldwork for the online survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,049 adults ages 16+ was carried out in November 2022.

The survey topic areas are presented in a series of five sections:

### 1. Consumer rights

- 2. The Repair Economy
- 3. Appetite to Advance the Repair Economy
- 4. Professional Repair Services
- 5. Motivations to Repair







# Consumer Rights: Infographic

#### The Right to Repair



31%

of people are familiar with the term *Right to Repair*.

# Repair information should be free



88%

of people believe producers should provide citizens with information on product durability and reparability for free.

#### Manufacturer responsibility



89%

of people believe manufacturers are most responsible for making the repairing of products easier.

#### Trust is an issue



39%

of people trust claims made by companies about their products.

#### Government responsibility



32%

of people assign most responsibility for making repair easier to national governments or its agencies.

# Durability is perceived to be in decline



81%

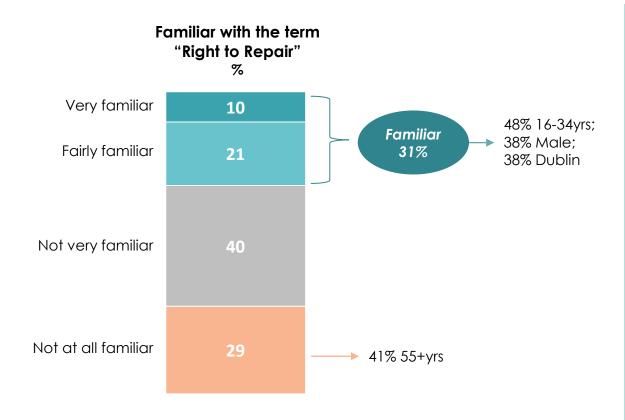
of people agree that older generations of products were more durable than newer generations.







## The "Right to Repair"



Current familiarity with the European Commission's 'Right to Repair' is reasonable at 31%.

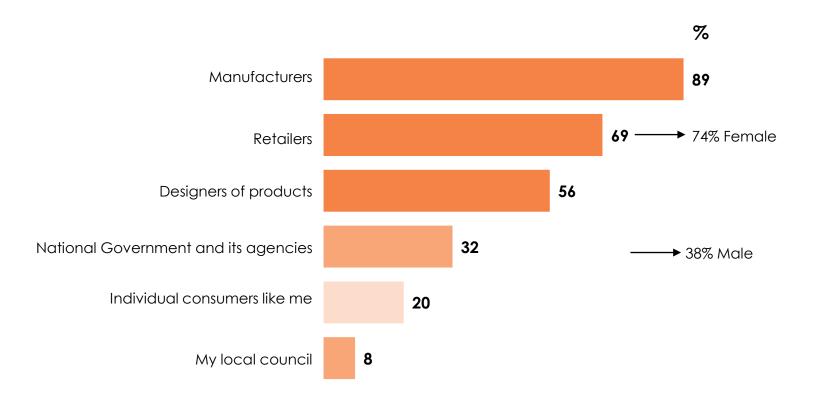
- 10% of people are very familiar with the term, and 21% are 'fairly familiar'.
- Familiarity peaks markedly among young adults (under 35 years) at 48%.

The Right to Repair refers to the following: The European Commission has announced the establishment of a 'right to repair' in an effort to save costs for consumers and prolong the lifetime of products. The right to repair refers to different issues and situations such as repair during the legal guarantee, the right to repair after the legal guarantee has expired, and the right for consumers to repair products themselves.





### Making Repair Easy: Who Should Be Responsible?



#### The vast majority believe manufacturers are primarily responsible for making repair easier:

- 89% of people select manufacturers as the most responsible for making the repairing of products easier, followed by retailers at 69%, and designers of products at 56%.
- To a much lesser extent people assign responsibility to national governments or its agencies, including local councils.
- Only one in five people nominate 'individual consumers like me' as the most responsible.







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### Repair & the Role of Producers\*

	Somewhat Agree %	Strongly Agree %	Any Agree %
Producers should provide citizens with <b>information on product durability and reparability</b> for free		56	88
<b>Batteries in electronic products</b> should be removable and replaceable by the end-user or by independent operators during the product lifetime		56	85
Products should have <b>mandatory labels</b> to inform customers about repair options	35	52	87
Producers should provide software updates and upgrades for existing products	33	52	85
There should be <b>minimum performance and durability requirements</b> for portable batteries or general use		51	84
Producers should be required to <b>provide spare parts</b>	33	50	83
Producers should provide citizens with <b>repair manuals</b> for free	33	48	81
Producers should be required to provide repair services	35	47	82
Mobile phones, tablets, computers and computer servers should have improved and longe lifetimes, even if this results in a cost to the consume		43	80
Producers should be <b>required to make durable and reparable products</b> , even if this results in a cost to the consumer		39	77
It should be <b>easy to disassemble and repair mobile phones</b> , tablets, computers and computer servers		35	69
Producers are entitled to <b>charge a reasonable fee</b> to consumers for repair services & spare parts	44	21	65
I <b>trust claims made by companies</b> about their products	33 6		39

# The public believe producers should have broad 'repair' related responsibilities

People most strongly agree that:

- Producers should provide citizens with information on product durability and reparability for free;
- Batteries in electronic products should be removable and replaceable by the enduser or by independent operators during the product lifetime;
- Products should have mandatory labels to inform customers about repair options.

In addition, only **39%** of people trust claims made by companies about their products.



Q.15 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement below? Base: All adults 16+ n - 1049

<sup>\*</sup> Producers include manufacturers of products and those that place products on the market



### Attitudes to Durability

Strongly Somewhat Any **Agree** Agree Agree Older generations of products were **more durable** than 29 52 81 newer generations I am **willing to pay more** for products with higher 79 51 28 durability When I buy things, I know the expected lifespan of the 60 15 45 product 40 51 I find it difficult to judge how durable products will be

Close to 80% of people are willing to pay more for durable products

- However, 1 in 2 people find it difficult to judge how durable products will be.
- And only 15% strongly agree 'when I buy things, I know the expected lifespan of the product'.
- We also believe durability is in decline: 81% of people agree that 'older generations of products were more durable than newer generations'.

Q.11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about yourself? Base: All adults 16+ n - 1049

Q.12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement below? Base: All adults 16+ n - 1049





NATIONAL REPAIR SURVEY 2022

### TO FIND OUT MORE:

Download Survey Excel data **here**.

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