

Which States or Countries Have Right to Repair Laws

Description

Right to Repair Laws: A Global Overview of Legislation by State and Country

The **Right to Repair** movement advocates for consumers' and independent repair shops' ability to fix their own electronic devices, vehicles, and machinery without being restricted by manufacturers. Over the past decade, this issue has gained significant traction, leading to legislative action in several U.S. states and countries worldwide. Below is a detailed breakdown of where **Right to Repair laws** have been enacted, proposed, or rejected.

United States: Right to Repair Laws by State

The U.S. has seen the most active legislative efforts regarding Right to Repair, with several states introducing bills—though only a few have successfully passed laws.

1. States with Enacted Right to Repair Laws

a. New York's Digital Fair Repair Act (2022)

- **Effective Date:** July 1, 2023
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Requires manufacturers to provide **diagnostic and repair information, tools, and parts** to independent repair shops and consumers.
 - Applies to **electronic devices** (smartphones, laptops, tablets, etc.) sold in New York.
 - Exempts **motor vehicles, medical devices, and home appliances** (covered under separate laws).
 - Manufacturers must make parts, tools, and documentation available **on fair and reasonable terms**.
- **Limitations:**
 - Does not cover **business-to-business (B2B) or business-to-government (B2G) sales**.
 - Allows manufacturers to **sell parts as assemblies** rather than individual components if safety or security risks exist.

b. Minnesota's Digital Fair Repair Act (2023)

- **Effective Date:** July 1, 2024

- **Key Provisions:**

- Similar to New York's law, requiring manufacturers to provide **repair documentation, tools, and parts** for electronic devices.
- Covers **consumer electronics, including smartphones, laptops, and gaming consoles**.
- Exempts **motor vehicles, medical devices, and agricultural equipment** (covered under federal or other state laws).
- Prohibits manufacturers from **imposing restrictions that prevent independent repairs**.

c. California's Right to Repair Act (2023)

- **Effective Date:** July 1, 2024

- **Key Provisions:**

- One of the **strongest Right to Repair laws** in the U.S.
- Applies to **all electronic and appliance products** sold in California after July 1, 2021.
- Requires manufacturers to provide **parts, tools, and documentation** for **seven years** after the last product sale.
- Covers **smartphones, laptops, home appliances, and even some agricultural equipment**.
- Prohibits **parts pairing** (where a device only works with manufacturer-approved parts).
- **Exemptions:**
- **Medical devices, motor vehicles, and video game consoles** (though some console manufacturers, like Microsoft, have voluntarily supported repair rights).

d. Colorado's Agricultural Right to Repair (2023)

- **Effective Date:** January 1, 2024

- **Key Provisions:**

- First state to pass a **Right to Repair law specifically for agricultural equipment**.
- Requires manufacturers (e.g., John Deere, Case IH) to provide **diagnostic tools, software, and parts** to farmers and independent repair shops.
- Prohibits **software locks** that prevent repairs.
- **Limitations:**
- Only applies to **agricultural equipment**, not consumer electronics.

2. States with Pending or Proposed Right to Repair Legislation

Several states have introduced Right to Repair bills that are still under consideration:

- **Massachusetts** Expanded its **automotive Right to Repair law** (2020) to include **telematics data** (wireless repair information).
- **Oregon** Passed a **Right to Repair bill (SB 1596, 2024)** similar to California's, covering electronics and appliances.
- **Washington, New Jersey, Illinois, Hawaii, and others** Have introduced bills but have not yet passed them.

3. States with No Right to Repair Laws (or Failed Legislation)

- **Texas, Florida, Georgia, and others** â?? Have seen **opposition from manufacturers**, leading to stalled or rejected bills.
 - **Federal Level** â?? The **Fair Repair Act** has been introduced in Congress multiple times but has not passed.
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International Right to Repair Laws by Country

Outside the U.S., several countries have implemented or are considering Right to Repair legislation.

1. European Union (EU) â?? Right to Repair Directive (2021)

- **Effective Date:** March 2021 (with phased implementation)
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Requires manufacturers to provide **spare parts and repair information** for **household appliances** (washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, etc.).
 - Mandates a **minimum 10-year availability** of spare parts for certain products.
 - Prohibits **design features that prevent repairs** (e.g., glued-in batteries).
 - Encourages **standardized parts** to make repairs easier.
- **Limitations:**
 - Does not yet cover **smartphones, laptops, or consumer electronics** (though discussions are ongoing).
 - Some countries (e.g., France) have **stricter national laws**.

2. United Kingdom â?? Right to Repair Regulations (2021)

- **Effective Date:** July 2021
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Similar to the EUâ??s law, requiring manufacturers to provide **spare parts and repair manuals** for **household appliances**.
 - Applies to **washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, TVs, and lighting products**.
 - Mandates a **minimum 7-10 year availability** of spare parts.
- **Limitations:**
 - Does not cover **smartphones, laptops, or gaming consoles**.

3. France â?? Repairability Index (2021) & Anti-Waste Law (2020)

- **Effective Date:** January 2021 (Repairability Index), 2020 (Anti-Waste Law)
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Repairability Index:** Requires manufacturers to **score products (1-10) on repairability** and display the rating at purchase.
 - **Anti-Waste Law:** Bans **planned obsolescence** and requires **spare parts availability for 5-10 years**.
 - Covers **smartphones, laptops, washing machines, and more**.
- **Impact:**

- Apple, Samsung, and other tech companies now provide **repair scores** for their devices in France.

4. Australia â?? Productivity Commission Recommendations (2021)

- **Status:** No federal law yet, but **recommendations** have been made.
- **Key Proposals:**
 - Mandate **repair information and parts** for consumer electronics.
 - Introduce a **repairability labeling system** (similar to France).
 - Address **software locks** that prevent independent repairs.
- **Current Situation:**
 - Some states (e.g., **Victoria**) have **voluntary repair schemes**, but no nationwide law exists.

5. Canada â?? Right to Repair Movement (Ongoing)

- **Status:** No federal law, but **provincial efforts** are underway.
- **Key Developments:**
 - **Quebec** introduced a **Right to Repair bill (Bill 197, 2023)** covering electronics and appliances.
 - **Ontario** has seen **lobbying efforts** from repair advocates.
 - **Federal Competition Bureau** has investigated **anti-competitive repair restrictions**.

6. India â?? Draft Right to Repair Framework (2022)

- **Status:** Proposed, not yet enacted.
- **Key Provisions (Proposed):**
 - Requires manufacturers to provide **repair manuals, spare parts, and diagnostic tools**.
 - Covers **automobiles, consumer electronics, and farming equipment**.
 - Aims to **reduce e-waste** and promote **local repair economies**.
- **Challenges:**
 - Strong **lobbying from tech and auto manufacturers** has delayed progress.

7. Other Countries with Right to Repair Efforts

- **Brazil** â?? Discussions on **repair rights for electronics and vehicles**.
- **Japan** â?? **Voluntary agreements** with manufacturers (e.g., Sony, Panasonic) to provide repair parts.
- **South Korea** â?? **Consumer protection laws** require some repair support, but no dedicated Right to Repair law.
- **New Zealand** â?? **Consumer Guarantees Act** provides some repair rights, but no specific Right to Repair legislation.

Key Challenges & Opposition to Right to Repair Laws

Despite growing support, Right to Repair laws face **significant opposition** from manufacturers and industry groups, citing:

1. **Intellectual Property Concerns** â?? Manufacturers argue that **repair manuals and diagnostic tools** contain proprietary information.
2. **Safety & Security Risks** â?? Some claim that **unauthorized repairs** could lead to **malfunctions, data breaches, or safety hazards**.
3. **Warranty Void Policies** â?? Many manufacturers **void warranties** if a device is repaired by a third party.
4. **Lobbying Efforts** â?? Companies like **Apple, John Deere, and Tesla** have **lobbied against** Right to Repair bills.
5. **Global Supply Chain Issues** â?? Some argue that **forcing manufacturers to provide parts** could disrupt supply chains.

The Future of Right to Repair Legislation

The Right to Repair movement continues to gain momentum, with **more states and countries** expected to introduce laws in the coming years. Key trends include:

- **Expansion Beyond Electronics** â?? More laws covering **automobiles, agricultural equipment, and medical devices**.
- **Stronger Enforcement** â?? Penalties for manufacturers that **restrict repairs**.
- **Global Harmonization** â?? Efforts to **standardize Right to Repair laws** across borders.
- **Consumer Awareness** â?? Growing demand for **repairable, sustainable products**.

As technology becomes more integrated into daily life, the **Right to Repair** will remain a critical issue for **consumer rights, sustainability, and economic fairness**.

Conclusion

Right to Repair laws are **evolving rapidly**, with **New York, California, Minnesota, and Colorado** leading in the U.S., while the **EU, UK, and France** have made significant progress internationally. However, **strong industry opposition** means that the fight for **universal repair rights** is far from over. As more governments recognize the **economic and environmental benefits** of repairable products, the movement is likely to expand, giving consumers **greater control over the devices they own**.

Category

1. Uncategorized

Date Created

July 8, 2026

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