50plus specialises in home repairs. It's an area where one can think about renovating or repairing instead of replacing; one of the most compelling reasons is s sustainability efficiency – going green is very politically correct!

So where and where not does it pay to keep older items going?

Plumbing: the days of the tap washer are in many cases long gone. Most taps now have cartridges. If the tap starts dripping they can be replaced – as long as one can identify them; there are many variants. If identification is not easy it's often cheaper if not greener, to change to the whole taps as these have come down in price significantly. Much the same applies to mixer showers. For electric showers we recommend replacement, the chances are something else will fail.

Electrical: Plugs, sockets and light switches rarely fail and are more usually replaced for aesthetic reasons. They have also significantly reduced in price. Lighting itself has undergone a revolution with the advent of LEDS and if you are not using them why not?; they save lots of money. Many LED fittings do not have replaceable 'bulbs' so the whole fitting will need replacing if it fails or if you fancy something new and swishy. The good news is malfunctions are rare. You should though make sure you are still not using halogen floodlights. They use high amounts of electricity and fail more frequently.

Appliances: Many say that the majority of appliances are not built to last and frankly it is true. The cost of repair versus replacement is frequently marginal, particularly for older items. We don't like it as it's hardly green to keep disposing of goods which are hardly 10 years old but economically it's all too often the sensible forward. It is pleasing though to see that a number of charities now refurbish and resell white goods in particular.

Garden woodwork: When it comes to outside woodwork our climate is designed to destroy it but nonetheless we fit sheds, decking and ornamental items on a vast scale. It pays to look after them. If your shed felt is failing, replace it before the roof begins to rot. It is worthwhile. Keep protecting decking. And do keep up the paintwork on wooden windows.

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Comment

Renovating and repairing home items instead of replacing them offers numerous advantages, both for homeowners and the environment. It is a sustainable practice that reduces waste, saves money, and preserves sentimental value.

One of the most compelling reasons to repair or renovate is cost efficiency. Replacing furniture, appliances, or fixtures can be expensive, while repairs often require minimal investment. Simple fixes like reupholstering a sofa or chair, repainting cabinets, or repairing a leaky tap can restore functionality and appearance without the expense of a full replacement.

Sustainability is another significant benefit. The production of new items requires raw materials and energy, contributing to environmental degradation and increased carbon

emissions. By repairing and reusing existing items, homeowners reduce landfill waste and lower their ecological footprint. This practice supports a circular economy, emphasising reuse over constant consumption.

Additionally, repairing home items often preserves quality and craftsmanship. Older furniture, for example, is frequently made from solid wood or other high-quality materials, making it more durable than many modern, mass-produced alternatives. Repairing or refinishing such items can extend their lifespan while maintaining superior construction.

Sentimental value is also a factor. Heirlooms or items with personal history can hold deep emotional significance. Rather than discarding a cherished item due to minor damage, repairing it allows families to preserve their memories while keeping functional pieces in their homes.

Lastly, repairing and renovating fosters creativity and customisation. Homeowners can give old items a new look that fits their style preferences, turning projects into personal expressions. Whether it's refinishing a vintage table or upgrading an old dresser, the process can be both rewarding and inspiring.