

Adhesives and Sealants in Circular Economy

Repair

Adhesives and sealants support repair by combining durable bonding during use with targeted disassembly solutions where repair is an inherent product feature.

A contradiction that isn't one!

Strong Bonds

Adhesives and sealants are **often assumed** to hinder disassembly for repair because they can create very strong bonds between materials.

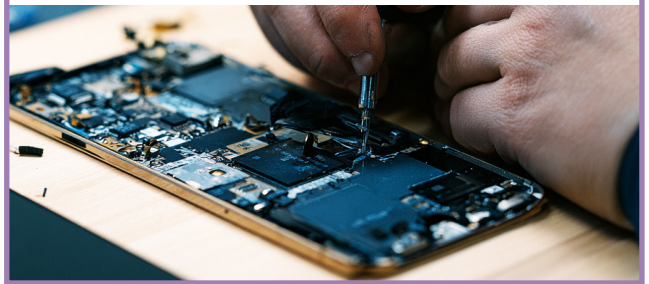


Repair



In reality, adhesives and sealants can be debonded and **are often the actual repair solution**.

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'Repair is enormously important in a circular economy because keeping products in use saves substantial resources and prevents the creation of waste. This is also exactly why repair sits higher in the waste hierarchy than recycling. Repairability should therefore be a key consideration during product design. When adhesives and sealants are adequately considered at this stage, they become part of the solution. Even where no adhesives or sealants are used in a product, they may still help to eventually repair it!'

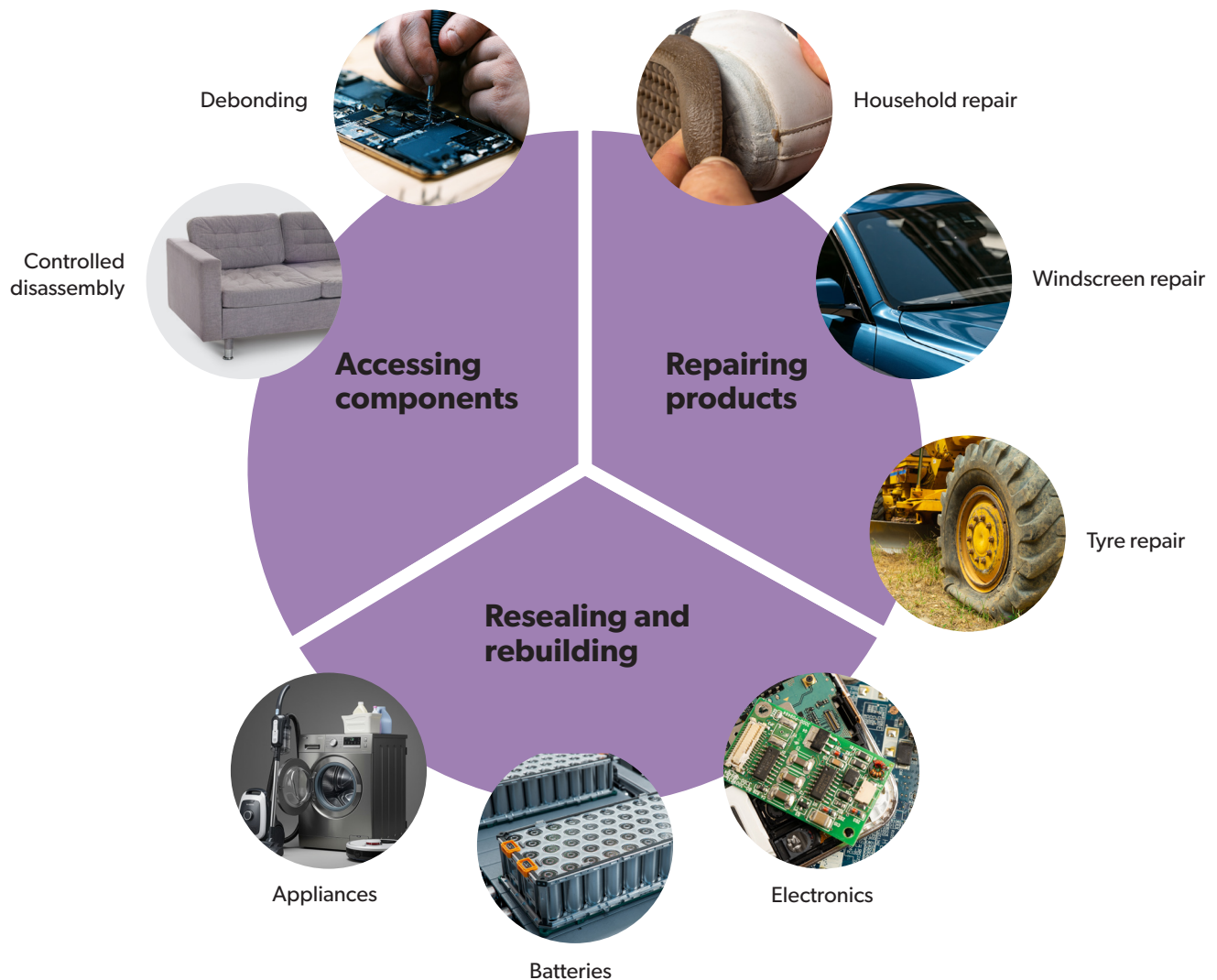


Adhesives and sealants not only do not prevent repair – they are, in many cases, the repair solution. Without adhesives and sealants, many products could not be meaningfully repaired.

Not only allowing repair, but enabling it



Adhesives and sealants are a leading repair solution because, unlike welding, they can bond nearly any two materials together and, unlike additional screws or nails, their use does not damage the product further.



Product regulations should recognise the diverse role of adhesives and sealants and maintain a technology-neutral approach.

- Repairability requirements in regulation should be based on a case-by-case technical assessment, rather than on the counterfactual assumption that adhesives and sealants are, by default, a generic obstacle to dismantling and repair.
- Repairability requirements should recognise the role that adhesives and sealants play as the actual solution that allows for repair to occur.