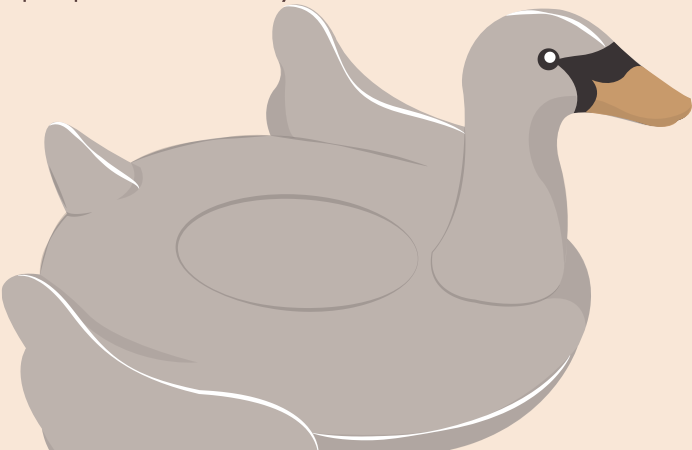


GIVING YOUR INFLATABLES A NEW LIFE



There's nothing more fun on a hot summer day than lounging in the pool with friends, lying on inflatables and sipping icy cold drinks. But what happens when that beloved floating donut gets old, or when that unicorn is deemed out of style? Inflatables are all made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) which is one of the most difficult plastics to recycle and can take more than 1,000 years to decompose in landfills, making them a huge detriment to the environment. Furthermore, they are made of such a thin and malleable plastic it cannot be recycled municipally. This is why I'll give you a few different ways on how you can reuse your broken or unwanted inflatables, allowing them to serve their purpose for many more summers to come.



REPAIRING INFLATABLES

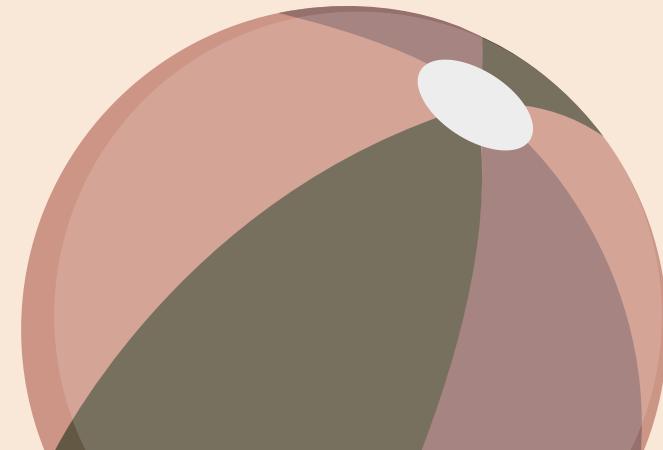
To repair your inflatable, you must first find the source of the leak. Slowly immerse your inflatable into water to find the stream of escaping bubbles, then make a mark with a permanent marker. After that, cover the hole with a small piece of duct tape then cover it again with a bigger piece of duct tape using a strong adhesive (permanent glue). Tightly press down on the area for around a minute and leave the float to dry for a few hours before launching it back into the pool. The hole should be completely sealed and there you have it, a brand new inflatable!

DONATING INFLATABLES

If your inflatable is still in good condition, you should donate it and gift it to others who will enjoy using it. This not only prevents the inflatable from entering the landfill, but also elongates its life span! Places that you could donate it to include your local thrift stores or [Freecycle](#), a network where people freely give away items that they don't need anymore.

UPCYCLING INFLATABLES

There are a few shops that transform used inflatables into brand new items. One example is [Wyatt and Jack](#), where they collect salvaged inflatables and create fashionable bags that come in all sizes. You can contribute by sending them your deflated unicorn or even your bouncy castle, and be prepared to be amazed at the outcome of their creation!



MORE DIY IDEAS ON REPURPOSING...



SHOWER CURTAINS

When different parts of the inflatable are cut into little squares, they can be put together to create a colorful, vibrant shower curtain.

1. Cut out square shaped pieces from your inflatable or different inflatables for a bigger variance in color.
2. Piece the squares together using superglue and press on them for at least 5 seconds.
3. Glue the pieces together until you reach an optimal length for your shower curtain.
4. Punch evenly spaced holes on the top of the curtain and insert rings - there you have it, a waterproof shower curtain!

BAGS

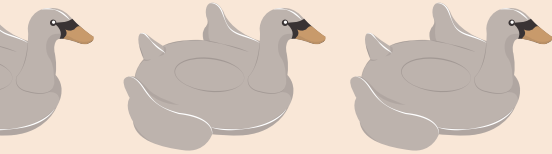
Similar to the method used for shower curtains, different shapes and sizes of cut up inflatables can be glued together to make pencil cases or tote bags. This can be an especially fun activity for younger children where they can choose the patterns they like and create long lasting bags for themselves.

CAMPING MAT

Large sheets of cut out inflatables can be laid out and used as the base of a tent to create a ground sheet protector during camping trips. Since the material is quite sturdy and waterproof, you won't have to worry too much about tears or spilling food/drinks inside your tent!

PAINTING PALETTE

You can layer a few sheets of inflatables together to make a palette for painting. Since the inner side of the inflatable is white, the cut outs will be a perfect option for paint holding and mixing; and since it is waterproof, you can easily wash off the paint and reuse it again.



GIFT WRAPPING

Instead of wasting money and paper when the holiday season or birthdays come around, you can just save up large sheets of cut up inflatables and wrap your gifts with them instead! The result will not only be unique and fun, but will also make your package a lot more durable and waterproof!

