



APPAREL AND TEXTILES

Clothing Care & Repair

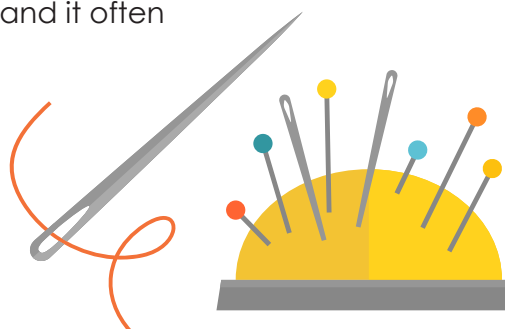
KEEP IT TOGETHER:

Sewing Up a Ripped Seam

Fixing a ripped seam is one of the easiest clothing repairs—and it often looks good as new when done properly. Here's how to sew up a ripped seam by hand.

YOU WILL NEED:

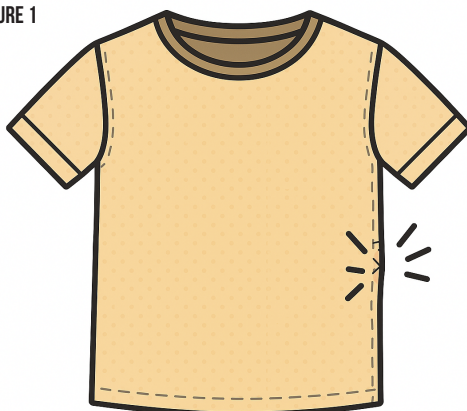
- Needle & matching thread
- Iron (for crisp folds)
- Scissors
- (Optional) Seam ripper
- Straight pins or clips



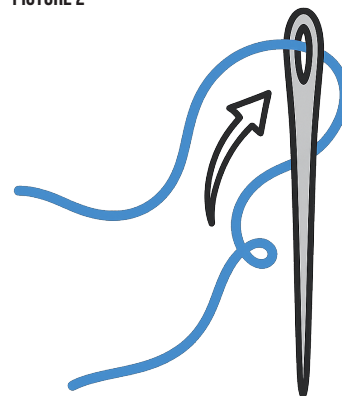
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Turn Inside Out:** Flip the garment inside out so you can work on the seam from the back (picture 1).
2. **Align the Fabric:** Line up the raw edges of the ripped seam. Use pins to hold them in place.
3. **Thread the Needle:** Use about 18-24 inches of thread. Tie a knot at the end (picture 2).

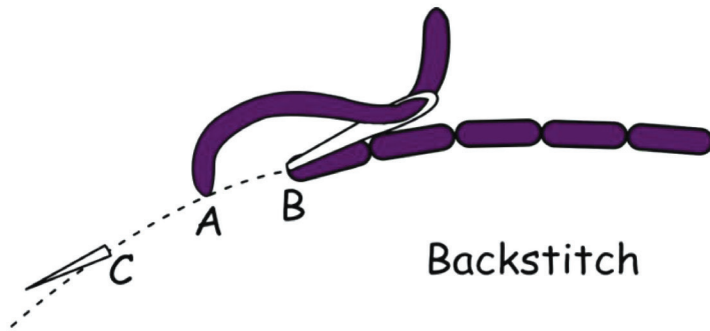
PICTURE 1



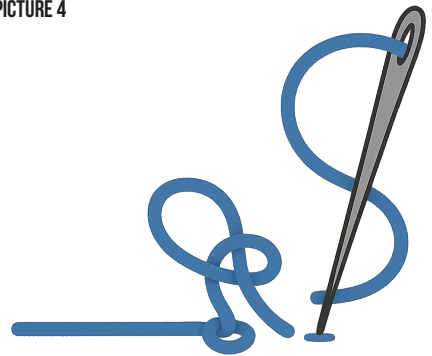
PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3

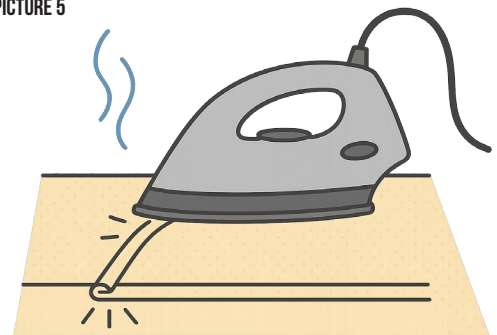


PICTURE 4



4. **Sew the Seam:** Use a backstitch for strength. Start slightly before the rip on the intact seam. Push the needle in and out of the fabric, going backward to secure each stitch. Each stitch should overlap at the end of the last one (picture 3).
5. **Tie Off:** When you are past the ripped area and into strong fabric again, tie a knot. Insert the needle once more and loop the thread to secure the knot. Trim excess thread (picture 4).
6. **Press:** Use an iron to press the seam flat and neaten the repair (picture 5).

PICTURE 5



EXTRA TIPS:

- ☐ Use the recommended settings on your iron for the type of fabric you are pressing.
- ☐ Press by using an up-and-down motion, lifting the iron, not sliding.
- ☐ Press the seam flat (wrong side up).

KNOWING HOW TO REPAIR A RIPPED SEAM KEEPS YOU ALWAYS LOOKING YOUR BEST.

Chris Rooft, Searcy County FCS Agent
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References: Bowers, S. & Bowers, D. (2021). Home Ec for Everyone: Practical Life Skills in 118 Projects. Workman Publishing Co., Inc. Bowers, S. & Bowers, D. (2016). The Useful Book: 201 Life Skills They Used to Teach in Home Ec and Shop. Workman Publishing Co., Inc. York, D. (Ed.). (2002). New Complete Guide to Sewing: Step-by-Step Techniques for making Clothes and Home Accessories. Reader's Digest.

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