

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

How to Clean the 10 Dirtiest Places in Your Home

1. **Cabinet Handles and Door-knobs:** To disinfect, simply walk around to every doorknob and cabinet handle in the house and wipe them off with antibacterial wipes.
2. **The Toilet:** Buy a liquid cleaner, a standard toilet brush and plastic or rubber gloves. Spray the cleaner around the inside of the toilet bowl and let it stand a few minutes. Then start scrubbing until clean. Flush several times to rinse the dirt and bubbles away. Then use an all-purpose disinfectant spray and a rag to wipe down the toilet's exterior.
3. **The Tub:** Start by running the shower for a few minutes to rinse out the tub. Then spray soap-scum-fighting bathroom cleaner all over it. Throw on some gloves, arm yourself with a scrub brush or sponge, and start scrubbing. Once you've worked your way around the entire tub, run the shower again to rinse off all of the suds.
4. **Kitchen and Bathroom Floors:** Sweep a few times a week and mop them at least once a week.
5. **Ceiling Fans:** Just wipe down the blades and base with a damp rag. Don't use a feather duster -- it actually just spreads around the dust.
6. **Faucets:** To disinfect, start with a sponge and a slightly abrasive cleaner that's gentle enough not to scratch the metal. Then, to get rid of hard water deposits, sub-



- merge the faucet (or at least the part where the water comes out) in a plastic bag filled with white vinegar. Tie the neck of the bag tightly around the faucet and leave it there overnight. In the morning, simply remove the bag and wipe off the faucet with a dry cloth.
7. **Kitchen and Bathroom Sinks:** Once a week, douse the sink with an all-purpose cleaner. Then fill a bowl with hot water, dip a sponge into the water, and scrub down the sink. The bathroom sink can be cleaned in the same manner, but if it's made of porcelain, make sure to use a nonabrasive cleaner.
 8. **Carpeting:** Regular vacuuming is key for eliminating dust mites and keeping your air clean. Try to vacuum at least once a week.
 9. **Blinds and Curtains:** Take a wet rag to the blinds to wash off any dirt. If you've never cleaned your blinds, soak them in a tub filled with hot water and dish soap before scrubbing them clean with a sponge. As for the curtains, take them down at least once a month and wash them. If you have drapes that can't be thrown in the washer, try vacuuming them once a month and sending them out for an annual cleaning.
 10. **Kitchen and Bathroom Countertops:** Use a rag and any run-of-the-mill all-purpose cleanser or disinfectant wipes daily. Just be sure to wipe off any crumbs or other debris first.
- Paula Kashtan – The Nest <http://www.thenest.com/>

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Notable News

Do you have expired, unused or unwanted prescription medication and you are unsure what to do? Don't throw them in the trash or down the drain. Citizens are welcome to turn in any outdated or unused prescriptions Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Apache Junction Police Department. Over 450 pounds of prescription drugs were collected from the community and properly disposed of in 2013.

Calendar

- May 5, 2014—Cinco de Mayo
- May 11, 2014—Mother's Day
- May 26, 2014—Memorial Day
- May is National Salad Month—get healthy eating today!
- June 15, 2014—Father's Day
- June 20, 2014—Take your dog to work day, I dare you.
- June is National fresh fruit and vegetable month. Pick up free produce at the Center on June 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
- July 3, 2014—International plastic bag free day
- July 4, 2014—Independence Day, Happy 4th of July!

Programs

Paint a Thon

The city once again will participate in the nationwide volunteer event through Rebuilding Together. The Rock n Roll Paint a Thon happens one Saturday in October where volunteers join together to paint the exterior of an elderly or disabled homeowner's home.

If you know of a homeowner who might benefit from this program, please ask them to contact Rebuilding Together at 480-774-0237 or

<http://www.rebuildingtogetherphx.org/>.

If you wish to volunteer for the city's team, call 480-474-2635 OR If you wish to manage and recruit for your own team of a minimum of 15 adults, contact Rebuilding Together to register at 480-774-0237.

Looking to buy a home in AJ?

Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona is currently seeking families to experience the transition from tenant to homeowner in Apache Junction. Applications are being accepted now. Partner families are selected based on their level of need, willingness to become partners in the program and ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest loan. Homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their Habitat home and the homes of

others. Recipients can see monthly payments as low as \$500 per month with a zero interest mortgage, since the home is financed through Habitat. For more information, please visit www.habitatcaz.org or contact Habitat for Humanity at 602-268-9022 to schedule an appointment.

Housing Rehabilitation Funding Available

The City of Apache Junction has funding available for homeowners within the City of Apache Junction city limits. Funding is available to make improvements to owner occupied homes where one of the occupants is either elderly, under the age of 18, or disabled. Improvements can include, but is not limited to, electrical, plumbing, roofing, heating and air conditioning, and ADA accessibility improvements.

Homeowners may obtain an application either:

- 1) online at www.ajcity.net/rehab;
- 2) by phone at (480) 474-2635; or
- 3) by picking one up at City Hall 300 East Superstition Blvd in the Development Services Building

Funding is available on a first come first serve basis, so applicants are advised not to wait. For more information call (480) 474-2635.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Time to get cleaning, here are some of the top items you can get rid of now to help de-clutter your home...

1. Clothes you do not wear—if you have not worn it in 2 years, get rid of it.
2. Stacks of old magazines and newspapers—don't forget to recycle.
3. Kitchen gadgets—the fancy gadget you had to have probably doesn't get used as much as you thought.
4. Expired medicines—DO NOT throw them in the trash or the down the drain, the AJ police department will take them off your hands SAFELY.
5. User manuals—this information is most readily available on-line. Toss them.
6. Old files and personal documents—to ensure you are not subject to identify theft, shred them.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

Don't wait in line at DES... The Center's friendly Care Navigators are available to assist the public in their journey through the AHCCCS health insurance, nutrition assistance (SNAP food stamps), and TANF (cash assistance) programs. Care Navigators can process new applications and renewals for individuals already receiving benefits.

The Center also has certified staff who can help with obtaining health insurance through the Healthcare.gov system.

Visit them at 2066 West Apache Trail Suite 116.

HOUSING PROGRAM PURPOSE AND GOALS:

1. Eliminate health and safety hazards in homes;
2. Benefit low to moderate income residents; and
3. Improve neighborhoods and encourage stability.

Try to stay cool this summer, visit the city's aquatic center on Southern Avenue. There is something for everyone including a zero depth pool, slides, private pool rentals and special events.

Housing Funnies



If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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