

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Saving for the Replacement of Major Household Appliances

All major appliances have an estimated life expectancy. Preparing for these replacement costs help to cushion the blow when the time comes.



Dishwasher, 9–15 years: Newer and more expensive models don't necessarily have longer lives. The more extra features a dishwasher has, like an electronic readout, the more things can potentially break. But staying on top of maintenance and small repairs will prevent bigger problems. Replacement cost \$300-\$700.

Garbage Disposal, 10-15 years: The biggest thing that affects a disposal's life span is how often it's used. Small efforts, like using a strainer and running water when operating the disposal, will pay off with a long life. Replacement cost \$50-\$200.

Stove, 13-20 years: Gas stoves last longer than electric by 2-5 years. Everyday care will help extend the life, such as cleaning the stove after every use and regularly checking the burners. Replacement cost \$300-\$1500.

Refrigerator, 10-18 years: Single-door refrigerator units tend to last longer. More common freezer-top and side-by-side models can last 17 and 14 years, respectively. Small repairs to things like failed door gaskets or malfunctioning ice makers are ex-

pected, but a broken compressor usually signals the end for a fridge. Replacement cost \$400-\$2000.

Washer, 10-14 years, and Dryer, 10-13 years: The life of a laundry machine is dependent on how often it's run. Eight loads a week will have a low life expectancy. Replacement cost \$300-\$700 each.

Central Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps, 15-20 years: Newer systems have an advantage with longer lives, thanks to improvements in technology. Maintenance is key, no matter the age of the A/C; periodically changing air filters and thermostat batteries ensures efficient use. An annual check-up with an HVAC pro will pay off by adding years to the end of the air conditioner's life. Replacement cost \$2000-\$7000.

Water Heater, 10-15 years: Traditional electric or gas heaters die out close to the 10-year mark. Lifespan here is partially influenced by the water source. Replacement cost \$500-\$1200.

To determine how much to save, simply divide the average replacement cost with the average life expectancy:

- Dishwasher: $\$500/12 = \$41/\text{year}$
- Disposal: $\$100/12 = \$8/\text{year}$
- Stove: $\$1000/16 = \$63/\text{year}$
- Refrigerator: $\$1000/15 = \$66/\text{yr}$
- Washer/Dryer: $\$1000/12 = \$83/\text{y}$
- HVAC: $\$5000/17 = \$294/\text{year}$
- Water heater: $\$800/12 = \$66/\text{yr}$

Saving \$50 per month is a great goal!

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Notable News

The city once again participated in a nationwide Rock-n-Roll Paint-a-Thon on Saturday, October 25, 2014. Volunteers from Apache Junction High School Student Council, Apache Trail High School, Pinal County Adult Probation and citizens of Apache Junction generously provided hours of service to paint the exterior of homes in Apache Junction. K and M Painting also provided their time to help paint a home of an elderly woman. As a result 4 homes of elderly and disabled homeowner's received a face lift. For information about next years Paint-a-Thon call 480-474-2635.

Calendar

- November 11—Veterans Day
- November 27—Thanksgiving Day
- November 28—Black Friday
- December 1—Cyber Monday
- December 7—Pearl Harbor Day
- December 10—Human Rights Day
- December 17—1st day of Hanukkah
- December 23—Festivus (for the rest of us!)
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- January 1—New Years Day

Programs

Low Income Ratepayer Assistance

The Southwest Gas Low Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA) LIRA provides a discounted monthly basic service charge and reduced usage rate for homeowners who meet the income and household size requirements. An application is required so contact Southwest Gas for more information (877) 860-6020.

Other available programs include a Low-Income Energy Conservation Program (LIEC) which provides energy efficiency and safety audits as well as financial assistance and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for energy bill assistance.

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

Natural Gas Safety Information

To keep safe from natural gas leaks it is important to know when a leak may be present. A leak may be present if...

- 1) If you smell an odor similar to rotten eggs even if it is faint,
- 2) If you hear hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above ground pipelines, or
- 3) If you see dirt or water blowing in the air, discolored vegetation surrounding a pipeline, or standing water continuously bubbling.

If you notice these you should:

- 1) Leave the area,
- 2) Call 911 and Southwest Gas (1-877-860-6020),
- 3) Do not smoke or use matches or lighters,
- 4) Don't turn on or off electric switches, thermostats, or appliance controls, and
- 5) Don't start or stop an engine or use an automated garage door opener.

It is also a good idea to have a carbon monoxide detector located in your home. These inexpensive alarms can save lives.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

Have you ever thought about savings? Saving for your future, school, a car. Are you having trouble finding the money to pay rent or utilities? Saving is hard! Where can you find the money you need?

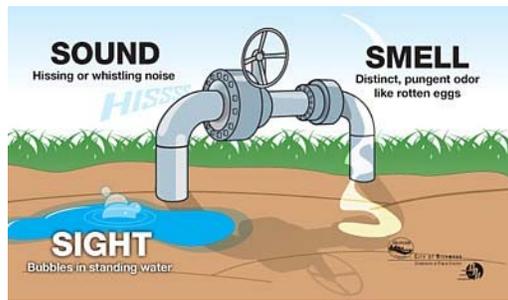
Try looking in your pocket...

Consider the cup of coffee you purchase daily for \$4. Instead, save it! If you stopped buying that coffee for one month you could save \$120 or \$1,460 over the next year. How about fast food? You could save \$2,555 a year. That impulse buy...\$400 a year. Next time you buy something, think about what you could save.

HOUSING PROGRAM GOALS:

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

Housing Funnies



Use your senses

Stay Safe

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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TDD: (480) 983-0095
www.ajcity.net
hpatel@ajcity.net
Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY The City of Apache Junction invites and welcomes people of all abilities to use our programs, sites and facilities. Any question about our service for people with disabilities can be answered by Bryant Powell, ADA Coordinator (480) 474-5066, TDD (480) 983-0095, or adacoordinator@ajcity.net. Additional information may be found at www.ajcity.net/ada.