

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## 10 Germy Places In Your Home

Here are 10 grimy things you may overlook when cleaning.

- Vacuum Cleaner Brushes & Attachments** You clean out the dust container or replace the bag routinely but when was the last time you cleaned the HEPA Vacuums [http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/product-testing/hepa-vacuums/upright-vacuum-reviews\\_selfvacuum](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/product-testing/hepa-vacuums/upright-vacuum-reviews_selfvacuum) upholstery tool or brush roll? Check your manual for the how-to. Using scissors, cut off any carpet fibers or hair entangled around the brush.
- Purse** Spot clean fabric bags with a gentle detergent solution like Woolite and flip the purse inside out to wipe down the inner lining. On finished leather purses, use a leather conditioning cleaner -- I love Guardsman Leather Wipes. And, if you place your purse on the floor in a restaurant or even worse, in the ladies' room, *never* put it on your kitchen table or countertop.
- Credit/Debit Cards** These everyday essentials get handled by lots of people, and germs can lurk in the crevices around the numbers. Give debit cards a quick cleaning with an alcohol wipe and let them air dry before placing them back in your wallet.
- Blinds** The material they're made of -- metal, wood, or fabric -- determines how you dust them. For metal blinds, wipe with a sock lightly dampened with water or multi-purpose cleaner. For wood blinds follow the same procedure using only a little tap water. Do not over wet the wood and be sure to buff dry right away. For fabric blinds, go over the blinds with a

dry microfiber cloth.

- Yoga Mat** After a few sessions, you probably notice that your sweaty hands and feet are leaving dirty marks on your mat, which can lead to yucky bacteria growth. Most mat manufacturers recommend occasionally hand cleaning their products



with water and mild soap. All-purpose cleaners can eat away at the material.

- Toothbrush Holder** Soak the holder in a solution of 1 part bleach to 3 parts water and rinse. Then air dry upside down. Or simply wash on the top rack of your dishwasher.
- Plants** Outdoor plants are cleaned off by the rain, but houseplants become caked with dust. Spiff them up with water and a soft cloth, like an old t-shirt. Don't forget to inspect the dirt for mold. Overwatering plants can cause mold to develop on top of the soil. If you notice any, replace the soil.
- Underside of Rugs** To remove dust and dirt that's gone deep down into the rug, simply flip it over and vacuum the underside.
- Top of the Refrigerator** I guess it's true what they say: "out of sight, out of mind". This definitely applies to the top of the fridge. Don't forget to wipe it down when you do the sides and handles.
- Kitchen Trash Can** Clean your can or the plastic liner in your utility room sink, the shower, or outside. (Be sure to disinfect the sink and shower afterwards). Thoroughly spray the trash can with a cleaner that contains bleach and let it stand for 10 minutes. Rinse and wipe clean. Before adding a new garbage bag, be sure the can is completely dry.

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## Notable News

Approximately 1.2 million people in Arizona volunteer. Volunteering gets people more engaged in their community. Volunteering not only gives people a good feeling of giving back, but it can provide valuable job experience, especially in tough economic times.

Nonprofit and community organizations that engage volunteers save money for their organizations, gain advocates, and many volunteers also donate money to the organization they serve. Volunteer time can be valued between \$15 and 20 per hour and can provide organizations leverage when applying for grants.

Consider volunteering within the community, statewide, or nationally. See the "Program Section" for volunteer options.

## Calendar

- May 13: Mother's Day
- May 28: Memorial Day, city offices closed
- June 17: Father's Day
- July 4: Independence Day, city offices closed
- July 22: Parent's Day



## Programs

### Housing Rehabilitation Program seeking eligible homeowners

The city continues to seek applications for the housing rehabilitation program. This program offers grant or loans to eligible homeowners for improvements to their homes which may include but are not limited to health and safety improvements, ADA accessibility, plumbing, electrical, roofing, HVAC, and code compliance. Eligibility requirements are dependent upon income, homeownership, and other factors. Please contact (480) 474-2635 for specific information on the program and how to get an application or visit [www.ajcity.net/housing](http://www.ajcity.net/housing).

### Looking to buy a home in AJ?

Pinal County has received grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist potential homeowners with down payment and closing cost assistance as well as funding to make improvements to the home. Homes available for this program must be foreclosed, bank owned, or short sale properties within a designated Apache Junction neighborhood, other restrictions apply. For additional information about the program and whether you may qualify, contact

Patricia Farnsworth, Pinal County (520) 866-7234.

### Volunteer Options

National Opportunities - <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicService.shtml>

Statewide Opportunities -

<https://www.azdes.gov/arizonaserveshome.aspx>

Local Opportunities -

<http://www.vcopc.org>

<http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=462>

Group Opportunities <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=218>

Animal Control <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=433>

Coaching Opportunities <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=203>

Paint a Thon <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=406>

Considering contacting a church or local non-profit. Happy Volunteering!

## Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Here are a few household cleaning product recipes you can whip up for, literally, pennies. But before you make and use these products, there are a couple of very important things to remember—

- 1) Test a small area first to make sure your surfaces won't be discolored or damaged;
- 2) Always place the product in a clean (preferably new) spray bottle or container and label with the product name and ingredients; and
- 3) If you start experimenting with cleaners at home, NEVER mix ammonia and bleach — the fumes that result can be lethal.

All-Purpose Cleaner—3 parts water; 1 part vinegar; 1 squirt of hand dishwashing liquid; a few drops of lemon juice, tea tree oil, or other essential oil (optional); and shake ingredients together well in a spray bottle. Spray surfaces and wipe off. On tough spots, let sit for a couple of minutes before wiping.

Toilet Cleaner—Sprinkle baking soda into the toilet bowl; add vinegar; and scour with a toilet brush.

Basically, vinegar disinfects and cleans while baking soda deodorizes, cleans, and works as an abrasive. Together, they react and work wonders.

*Bees Wishes*



## RESOURCES

The City of Apache Junction website hosts a variety of information and resources for its residents. Some information can be found at <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=418>

Information specific to homeowners: <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?nid=410>

Information specific to renters and seniors: <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=413>

Resource directory: <http://www.ajcity.net/businessdirectoryii.aspx>

### 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.

Undertaking home repairs can be daunting. Know when to call for help! Repairing repairs can become more expensive. Use a professional or seek consultation from your local hardware store.

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## New City Hall Hours

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:  
City of Apache Junction  
Housing Division  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.  
Apache Junction, Arizona 85119  
Phone: (480) 474-2635  
Fax: (480) 474-5102  
TDD: (480) 983-0095  
[www.ajcity.net](http://www.ajcity.net)  
[hpatel@ajcity.net](mailto:hpatel@ajcity.net)  
Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Housing Funnies