

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

The Cheapest, Fastest Fixes for Everyday Home Headaches

Replace a Flush Handle

At some point, every homeowner encounters a loose, broken, pitted, or just plain ugly toilet flush handle that's crying out for replacement. Swapping in a new one can cost as little as \$4 to \$10, depending on whether it mounts on the front or side of the toilet tank.

Put in a New Toilet Fill Valve

If a toilet runs constantly, fills slowly, or flushes weakly, the culprit may be a faulty fill valve. A leaky tank not only wastes water and adds to the water bill, but it can lead to bigger problems if not addressed promptly. It makes sense to tackle this repair as soon as possible—particularly as a fill valve costs just about \$8 and is simple to replace.

Fix an Ice Maker Hose

Now that summer temps have started to rise, ice consumption is bound to go up too. It's practically the worst time for an ice maker water line to break. Fortunately, a sweaty homeowner can cool things down in a jiffy by replacing the water line connector hose with a flexible burst- and kink-resistant universal model (under \$10) that fits most leading brands



of ice makers.

Change a Faucet Washer

The cause of a dripping faucet is usually a worn-out rubber washer that is no longer able to keep water from leaking from the faucet. It's fairly simple to unscrew and remove the faucet handle so you can replace the washer—which costs less than \$3—and again enjoy the sounds of silence.

Replace a Supply Line Faucet Connector Hose

Leaks can cause puddles in the least noticeable places, but that's all the more reason to deal with them quickly. Constant moisture under a sink, for instance, can lead to mold, rot, and warping wood. No worry—an under-sink faucet hose isn't tough to replace: Simply shut off the water valve and unscrew each end of the hose. A new supply line faucet connector up to 20 inches long costs less than \$7 and is easy to attach.

Recaulk a Sink or Backsplash

Dry, cracked caulking can start to break off in tiny pieces or larger chunks, leaving countertops and tile backsplashes vulnerable to water damage. Armed with a \$3 caulk gun, about \$6 worth of caulking, and a little technique, a competent homeowner can remove the old caulk and apply a new bead like a pro.

MSN Lifestyle and Bob Vila

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Notable News

Did you know the U.S. Environmental protection Agency has indicated Energy Star CFL bulbs:

- 1) use 75% less energy than standard bulbs;
- 2) last up to 10 times longer;
- 3) Save \$30 or more in electricity costs over the life of the bulb; and
- 4) Produce 75% less heat which in turn reduces home cooling costs.

Buy a CFL bulb today!

Calendar

- August 8-12—Free Dump Week
- September 5—Labor Day, city offices closed
- October—Parks and Recreation will be hosting a Halloween Festival. For more information visit at www.ajcity.net
- Check out the monthly calendar for the AJ Public Library at www.ajpl.org

Programs

Housing Rehab Assistance

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.

Free Dump Week

The Apache Junction Landfill is offering a free dump week on August 8-12. Residents of Apache Junction may bring one load of household trash, debris and yard clippings for free. Proof of residency and safety gear is required. Call 480-982-7003 for additional information.

Annual Paint –a– Thon

The city is seeking homeowners to have the exterior of their home painted for free. Volunteers are also being sought to do the painting. Call 480-474-2635 for more information.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Buying a new light bulb can be a confusing exercise these days, particularly if you're trying to make the most cost-effective choice. Some of the most popular options today are LED or CFL bulbs, which offer extended life and savings on your electric bill.

CFL bulbs do come with precautions:

- 1) Use outdoor specific bulbs covered fixtures where they are protected from the weather.
- 2) Photocells and timers do not work with CFLs.
- 3) Always recycle your used CFLs. Ace Hardware and Home Depot offer recycling options.

If a CFL breaks, you should:

- 1) ventilate the room
- 2) Use rubber gloves
- 3) Use paper or cardboard to pick up the debris
- 4) Use sticky tape on carpet to pick up the smaller pieces
- 5) Wipe the area with a damp paper towel
- 6) Dispose in a sealed plastic bag and take to a recycling center.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

The temperature is rising and so are our energy costs.

Visit <http://www.savewithsrp.com/> for ideas on how you can save money on your electric bill.

Visit <https://www.swgas.com/en/az-special-programs> for more information on special programs for lowering your energy costs as well as assistance programs for those in need.

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

ADA laws exclude private homes, however their recommendations may be beneficial to everyone. Having access to all parts of your home make for a happy homeowner.



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 the city's ADA Coordinator (480) 474-2635, TDD (480) 983-0095, or adacoordinator@ajcity.net. Additional information may be found at www.ajcity.net/ada.