

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Beds Bugs

It is practically an epidemic. Bed Bugs are invading our homes and reeking havoc on our lives and finances. Bed Bugs are widely considered the best hitchhikers around. They can get on your clothes, and in your purse. Being vigilant and aware of where you are sitting can help stop the transmission of these pests from a public place to your home. Not only can they be transmitted from a hotel room but they have also been found in chairs and carpeting in public places. Observe the area and look for small black bugs prior to sitting or sleeping on any surface.



Bed bugs are small, flat, parasitic insects that feed solely on the blood of people and animals while they sleep. Bed bugs are reddish-brown in color, wingless, range from 1mm to 7mm (roughly the size of Lincoln's head on a penny), and can live several months without a blood meal.

Bed bug infestations usually occur around or near the areas where people sleep. They hide during

the day in places such as seams of mattresses, box springs, bed frames, headboards, dresser tables, inside cracks or crevices, behind wallpaper, or any other clutter or objects around a bed. Bed bugs have been shown to be able to travel over 100 feet in a night but tend to live within 10 feet of where people sleep.

One of the easiest ways to identify a bed bug infestation is by the tell-tale bite marks on the face, neck, arms, hands, or any other body parts while sleeping. However, these bite marks may take as long as 14 days to develop in some people so it is important to look for other clues when determining if bed bugs have infested an area. These signs include:

- the bed bugs' exoskeletons after molting,
- bed bugs in the fold of mattresses and sheets,
- rusty-colored blood spots due to their blood-filled fecal material that they excrete on the mattress or nearby furniture, and
- a sweet musty odor.

In This Issue

1	Bed bugs
1	Notable News
1	Calendar of Events
2	Programs
2	Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips
2	Resources
2	Housing Funnies

Notable News

Lost Dutchman Days is coming February 24-26. Visit <http://www.lostdutchmandays.org/> For event details.

Lost Dutchman Days includes a marathon, rodeo, carnival rides, entertainment, vendors and royalty pageant. This event takes place at 1590 East Lost Dutchman Blvd at the Apache Junction Rodeo Park.

Calendar

- February 6-11 Free Dump Week
- February 20 President's day—city offices closed
- February 24-26 Lost Dutchman Days
- February 28—Mardi Gras
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 30—Take a Walk in the Park Day—come out and enjoy one of AJ's fabulous parks!
- April is Fair Housing Month
- April 16—Easter

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 Stuff

The city is offering Apache Junction residents free house numbers and wood stain with help from the Friends of Apache Junction, the Allstate Foundation and Frontier Ace Hardware. This offer is on a first come first serve basis, so call today 480-474-2635.

Free Dump Week is February 6-11, Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, please contact the Apache Junction Landfill at (480) 982-7003.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Don't let those bed bugs bite! Here are essential tips on how to treat bed bugs!

If you find bed bugs do not try to get rid of them yourself. This could cause further spread of the pests to other non-affected areas of your home. Call an exterminator immediately.

Some exterminators may treat your home with chemicals if the infestation is limited. However a "heat" treatment is the best way to rid your home of these pests.

Extermination services can be pricey but they will be well worth the money in exchange of disposing of your mattress, pillows, bedding, clothing and other personal items.

If treated properly you should have not further issues.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

The community of Apache Junction is full of great resources and services. Most often these services are advertised in the two local papers or on the city's website and social media accounts. Visit <http://www.ajcity.net/CivicAlerts.aspx> and <http://www.ajcity.net/businessdirectoryii.aspx>

Housing Funnies



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.

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
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.