

# Level One

## Maintaining Your Property



A great way to build a sustainable neighborhood is to start with your home. Basic maintenance to your yard and home is a great way to improve desirability of your neighborhood and increase the value of your property. Poor maintenance of homes and neighborhoods can lead to increases in crime and lower economic vitality. Maintaining your property can increase social responsibility of your neighborhood and encourage other residents to clean up and maintain their yards as well. Below are different steps to help you make a difference to your home! The following steps are based on the [City of Apache Junction Property Standards](#).

**Investment:** This can be a full day activity or can take a couple months to complete and will cost around \$50-\$250 depending on which project.

### 1. Maintaining Your Yard

- a. First clean and clear away any garbage or junk located in your front yard. Correctly dispose all waste into trash cans. Use shovels, gloves, rakes, and trash bags!
- b. Clear any unwanted weeds or plants and level out the front yard till bare, because weeds and dried grass near your home is a fire hazard. Add outside improvements to spruce up your yard to fit the Arizona desert landscape.

**For example:**

- i. Pathways to your house with rocks
  - ii. Native plants or trees for shade
  - iii. Benches or porch lights
- c. With the improvement ideas listed, begin to create and design your desirable desert-scape in your front yard!

### 2. Trash Disposal Services

- a. Take advantage of the opportunities to throw away large amounts of trash through multiple trash services in the Apache Junction area. Throw away unwanted trash to make your home open and beautiful!

**Trash Pick-up Services:**

- Allied Waste \$29.61/quarterly\*
- Right Away Disposal \$47.85/per 3 months\*
- Waste Management \$75/per 3 months\*

- b. Another helpful way to dispose of unwanted trash is through the city of Apache Junction with free dump days.
  - **Every Quarter** of the year during the **second week** of the month

### 3. Painting Your House

- a. Begin by choosing a suitable color that you would like for your house as the main color and that would also reflect well within the neighborhood. Color options are available online or in store.
  - i. **Optional:** Choose two more colors for the accent color and the trim color
    - a. **Accent color:** which brings doors, shutters and other smaller areas to life
    - b. **Trim color:** used for window and door casings, roof edging, and railings
- b. Choose a desired color and buy the exterior paint at the local hardware store as listed below:
  - i. **Ace Hardware** (Apache Trail) Price Range \$20-\$250 per can/bucket\*
  - ii. **Walmart** (Apache Trail) Price Range \$10-\$250 per can/bucket\*
  - iii. **Best True Value** (Apache Trail) Price Range \$20-\$250 per can/bucket\*
- c. If not already owned, purchase proper paint supplies for exterior painting. Supplies you may need are:
  - i. Paint rollers: \$5-\$35 \* and Painter Tape: \$10-\$25 \*
  - ii. Hand brushes: \$3-\$55 \* and Tarps: \$5-\$25\*
- d. Before painting, make sure to clean away dirt and chipped paint on the exterior house with a water hose or pressure wash until house is completely clean. When ready, prep your house by sectioning off areas of your house to make the painting easier. Make sure to cover window edges with painter tape and cover door knobs, so that the paint does not get on them.
- e. Start painting until your house is complete! Once finished, let the paint dry overnight. If your budget allows, apply a second coat after the recommended dry time. Enjoy your beautiful home!

