

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

17 tips for saving money on cleaning supplies

Put these common household items to work cleaning! Things you already have on hand have hidden potential as powerful cleaners. Don't spend a fortune on special products when these tips can reduce costs and eliminate the need for harsh chemicals.

Cornstarch: Clean grease spills on carpet. Pour cornstarch onto spots and let sit 15-30 minutes, then vacuum.

Rubbing Alcohol: Remove permanent marker stains on finished wood floors or solid-surface countertops by rubbing with an alcohol soaked cotton ball.

Baking Soda: Toss a tablespoon of baking soda on a spill in refrigerator or freezer to absorb mess or place an entire opened box on a shelf to eliminate odors.

Sprinkle on fabric of upholstered furniture and then vacuum to remove odors.

Apply paste of equal parts baking soda and water to walls with crayon marks. Let dry, then brush off with clean cloth. Don't use on colored walls.

Mix equal parts baking soda and white vinegar and place on formica stains. Let stand and scrub off. Don't use bleach on formica!

Lemon: Cut lemon in half and grind while running hot water down garbage disposal to remove wafting odors.

Add 1/2 cup lemon juice to rinse cycle of a normal-sized laundry load to brighten whites.

Rub lemon juice on taps and let sit overnight to combat lime scale. Wipe off with a damp cloth.



Remove stains on plastic or wood cutting boards by letting juice from half a lemon sit for 20 minutes, then rinse.

To clean countertops, dip the cut side of half a lemon in baking soda. Wipe with a wet sponge and dry. Don't use on marble or stainless steel.

Fabric softener: Fill spray bottle with equally with fabric softer and water. Spray onto carpet or furniture and then vacuum to remove pet hair.

Bleach: Dilute bleach according to directions on bottle. Pour directly on concrete stain. Let stand 5 minutes. Scrub with hot water and brush. Repeat.

Vegetable Oil: Remove paint from skin by rubbing with vegetable oil then washing thoroughly with soap.

Rubber Dishwashing Glove: Use wet glove to pick up pet hair by wiping hand over surfaces.

Borax: Clean toilet and remove rust stains. Pour Borax into bowl and let it sit overnight. Swish with a toilet brush and flush the next day.

Vinegar: Pour vinegar down pipes and drains to clean. Wait 30 minutes and flush with cold water.

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Notable News

2010 Census: Make sure you are counted! The 2010 Census form will be mailed Feb.-March. Census numbers determines how AJ will receive its share of more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent for hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and emergency services.

Need a flexible part-time job? Apply to be a Census taker! Pay starts at \$15/hr. Call 480-270-8360 for more information or visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>

Calendar

- 2/1—4/15 Free Tax Preparation
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 President's Thanksgiving – City offices closed
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 4/4 Easter
- 4/22 Earth Day
- April is Fair Housing Month

Programs

Now Open: The Center

The Center, offers services to help citizens develop healthy lifestyles by connecting them to services and resources needed to be self sufficient. Visit:

www.emsysonline.com

2066 W. Apache Trail
Apache Junction, AZ 85120
480-367-6937

Rehabilitate Your Home

The City's Housing Rehabilitation Program is now accepting applications for eligible homeowners. This program assists homeowners with health and safety issues, correcting code violations and accumulated deferred home maintenance projects. Contact the Program Coordinator for information at (480) 474-2635 or visit www.ajcity.net/housing for an application.

Does the IRS owe You money?

You may qualify for federal tax credits and not even know it. The Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax

Credit (CTC) are federal tax benefits for working people. Some workers can receive a refund even if they don't owe taxes! To claim the EIC and CTC, you must file a tax return.

The City of Apache Junction in collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service and AARP Tax Aide is offering two free tax preparation E-filing sites beginning February 1, 2010 and running through April 15, 2010.

Apache Junction Public Library, 1177 N. Idaho Rd. Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Apache Junction Moose Lodge, 350 W. 16th Ave. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additional Apache Junction site located at **The Center**, 2066 W. Apache Trail, Tuesdays & Fridays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (sponsored by the United Way of Pinal County)

Questions? Call (480) 474-2635.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Hiring a repairperson or contractor:

You can't always do home maintenance yourself. But if you are looking to have it done, keep these things in mind:

- Use a repairperson or contractor recommended by a friend, neighbor or family member who has had similar work done.
- Check if your warranty requires a repairperson with special qualifications. If so, make sure the person you hire qualifies.
- Get 2 or 3 written estimates for major repairs or improvements.
- Call the Better Business Bureau 1-877-291-6222 to find out if there are any complaints against the person or company you are hiring.

After you have selected a company:

- Ask for a written contract for all work to be done. Read and understand the contract before you sign it.
- Never pay in advance
- Do not give them a key to your house. Do not go on vacation while work is being done.

"Home Maintenance, A guide to minor household repairs"

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

- For resources and agencies that can offer help statewide check out www.cir.org or by phone at 602-263-8856
- Statewide Foreclosure Hotline: 1-877-448-1211
- United Way and CAAFA offer a special resource guide for human services throughout Northern Pinal County. Check out their website at <http://www.npcresources.org/>
- Can't afford to spay or neuter your pets? Apache Junction Animal Control has a program to help. Call 480-983-4405.

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Pour vinegar into plastic grocery bag and knot handles over the neck of the showerhead. Secure with rubber bands and let soak overnight. Rinse with water in the morning to combat mineral deposits.

Ideas from www.realsimple.com

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.

Everyone wants a low energy home find out how at www.srpnet.com



Housing Funnies

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:

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