

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## Filters

There are some very important things that you should do to extend the life of your air conditioner and keep it working at peak efficiency at all times. One of the most important things that you can do is change your air conditioner or furnace filter every three to six months.

Every home is different and there are many factors that affect how long you should wait between filter changes. Wait too long and the efficiency of the equipment will deteriorate and operating costs go up. Change your filter too often and it's like throwing money away. Considering the cost of some filters, could add up to a lot of money over time.

It is important to keep in mind that the more efficient your air conditioner filter is the more often it will have to be cleaned or replaced.

For most people pleated filters will do an adequate job. These filters are ten to sixty percent efficient and some manufacturers claim even higher efficiencies. Pleated filters should be changed every three to six months. If you live in an area with lots of dust then you should probably change your filter about every three months.

If you require more efficient air filtration you may want an electrostatic, electronic or even a HEPA filter. Electrostatic filters probably offer the best combination of value and efficiency. You will pay between two to six times what a good quality disposable filter would cost but you just wash

them with water when they become dirty and reuse them.



Electronic filters will never become dirty enough to affect airflow. They just become inefficient and their ability to remove dust from the air deteriorates as they become dirty. To clean these filters you have to remove the electronic cells and soak them in HVAC cleaner and then rinse them and let dry.

HEPA filters are the most efficient filters available and become plugged very quickly. They need to be checked monthly and often cause too much restriction to airflow to be used at all. An air conditioner contractor will be able to tell you if it is worth trying one of these in your system.

If you are using economy panel filters from your local hardware store and getting a pack of four for five or ten dollars, you are not doing yourself, your family or your air conditioning equipment any favors. When it comes to rating filters, these are at the bottom of the list. If left in your air conditioner for a year it would not collect enough dust to require changing. The unfortunate thing is the evaporator coil of your air conditioner would need to be cleaned every year to remove the dirt that should have been stopped by the filter.

Don't neglect your filter. This investment will help the longevity and efficiency of your unit. Helping to reduce maintenance costs, replacement costs, and utility costs.

## In This Issue

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

## Notable News

The City of Apache Junction is offering, for free, up to 10 standard spiral CFL bulbs to all residents of the City of Apache Junction.

Eligible residents must live within the corporate limits of Apache Junction. For information on those boundaries visit <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?nid=598> or call 474-5080.

Residents may bring their old incandescent bulbs and proof of residency to the following locations to receive a voucher to redeem at Best or Ace Hardware for their free bulbs.

City Hall Development Services  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.  
Monday—Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Calendar

- May 30 — Memorial Day, City office are closed.
- July 4 — 4th of July, City offices are closed.

## Programs

### Rehabilitate Your Home

The City invites homeowners to apply for grant funding through the Arizona Department of Housing to complete housing rehabilitation and replacement for eligible homeowners.

There are currently 15 grants or forgivable loans from \$10,000 to \$60,000 depending upon the homeowners' needs. Such items may include heating, air conditioning, plumbing, roofs, ADA accessibility, code violations and health and safety issues. If repairs to a manufactured home are greater than the value, a replacement may be considered.

Eligible applicants must be single family or manufactured owner occupied homeowners who have owned their home and property for a minimum of 1 year; reside within the City limits; and are at least 62-years old, have a disability or have children under the age of 18 living in the home.

Privacy is a priority, and recipients of the program and information

collected in the application process are held in strict confidentiality.

Funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis. For more information call Heather Patel at (480) 474-2635 or visit our website at <http://www.ajcity.net/rehab>

### City Services

Have you taken advantage of the great programs and services offered here in the City of Apache Junction? The Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Library offer a vast amount of great programs and services for everyone in the family. Book clubs, movie nights, outdoor programs, field trips and sport clubs, we have it all!

Check them out at:

[www.ajcity.net/parks](http://www.ajcity.net/parks)  
[www.ajpl.org](http://www.ajpl.org)

The City is pleased to work with East Valley Adult Resources to offer services for seniors including meals, check out the Apache Junction Active Adult Center at <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=480>

## Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Break housework into piece, try these tips...

### DAILY TASKS

- Laundry (clothing)
- Dishes
- Straightening up/pick up toys
- Filing papers and handling the email

### WEEKLY TASKS

- Laundry (bed linens and towels)
- Dust
- Clean bathrooms
- Vacuum and mop

### MONTHLY

- Dust ceiling fans
- Clean walls and light fixtures
- Clean window coverings
- Vacuum furniture
- Clean inside windows and sills
- Test smoke detectors, change battery as needed or once a year
- Clean range hood and filters
- Deep clean refrigerator and other appliances
- Wash throw rugs

### SEASONALLY

- Clean outside windows and screens
- Clean gutters
- Clean grill and patio furniture
- Clean interior and exterior doors
- Check air conditioner and furnace, change filters and clean vents
- Clean refrigerator coils and vent
- Clean dryer vent system

*Bees Wishes*



**RESOURCES** Many resources are available on the city's website that can help if you or someone you know is in need of assistance. These resources may be websites or publications that offer local, county, regional, and statewide assistance.

Check out these resources at [www.ajcity.net/help](http://www.ajcity.net/help)

Likewise, if you wish to help out, the Governor has created an initiative to help where budget cuts were the most significant.

Visit <https://www.azdes.gov/arizonaserveshome.aspx> to see how you can help those in need.

### 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.

Take a bite out of summer and celebrate our Independence at the City of Apache Junction 4th of July Celebration.

[www.ajcity.net/parks](http://www.ajcity.net/parks)

(480) 983-2181

Watch for the Summer edition of the Citizen.



## Housing Funnies

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

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