



Help Keep Your Old House in Top Shape with this Spring Maintenance Check List

- Check gutters for winter damage, repair if necessary, clean out gutters, check functionality of downspouts and water discharge area
- Evaluate grade around house and improve drainage if needed, add downspout leaders to carry the water well away from the foundation
- Check outdoor faucets for leaks
- Raise/store storm windows, make repairs now if necessary
- If unable to keep basement humidity under control with basement windows open, close windows and start dehumidifier, target relative humidity is ~50-60% during the summer
- Check for adequate ventilation in attic, open gable-end attic windows for increased ventilation, remember to insert screens to keep out bats and other unwanted visitors
- Inspect roof for damage and leaks, a good time to inspect the attic for leaks is during a rain event
- Check windows, repair any cracked glass and re-glaze and paint where needed
- Trim all trees and vegetation around house so there is ideally at least 2-3 feet clearance
- Inspect clapboards, replace cracked or severely damaged, spot scrape, sand and paint where needed (if clapboard replacement is required, use quality quartersawn replacements)
- Gently wash dirt and mold growth off wood siding and trim, mild soap and TSP substitute works well on wood surfaces, power washing not recommended because of potential for water infiltration and damage to wood
- Closely inspect exterior of house, basement and attic for insect infestation, treat where necessary for carpenter ants, termites and powderpost beetles with non-toxic (to humans and animals) Boracare.

Questions? We here to help! Call the Preservation Alliance at 603-224-2281.

More information at www.nhpreservation.org