



Keep Your Old House in Shape with this Spring Check List

- Check gutters for winter damage, repair if necessary, clean out, check functionality of downspouts and water discharge area, add downspout leaders to carry the water well away from the foundation
- Evaluate grade around house and improve drainage if needed
- Check outdoor faucets for leaks
- If unable to keep basement humidity under control with basement windows open, close windows and use 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 attic for leaks, best time to inspect the attic for leaks is during a rain event
- Raise/store storm windows, make repairs now if necessary
- 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 those that are cracked or severely damaged, spot scrape, sand and paint where needed (if clapboard replacement is required, use quality radially-sawn clapboards)
- Gently wash dirt and mold growth off wood siding and trim; mild soap and TSP substitute works well on wood surfaces, power washing is not recommended because of potential for water infiltration and damage to wood surfaces
- Caulk around windows and doors if cracks have developed
- 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're here to help! Call the Preservation Alliance at 603-224-2281.

More information and tips at www.nhpreservation.org