

PORCH DECKS: CARE & MAINTENANCE



Nothing evokes nostalgic charm and says ‘welcome’ like a historic front porch. And nothing takes a beating as much as a front porch.

Regular maintenance is essential to keep your porch in good condition so that it can continue to be one of the best character-defining features of your historic home.

Check out these **8 Best Practices** for the **Care and Maintenance of Porch Decks**.

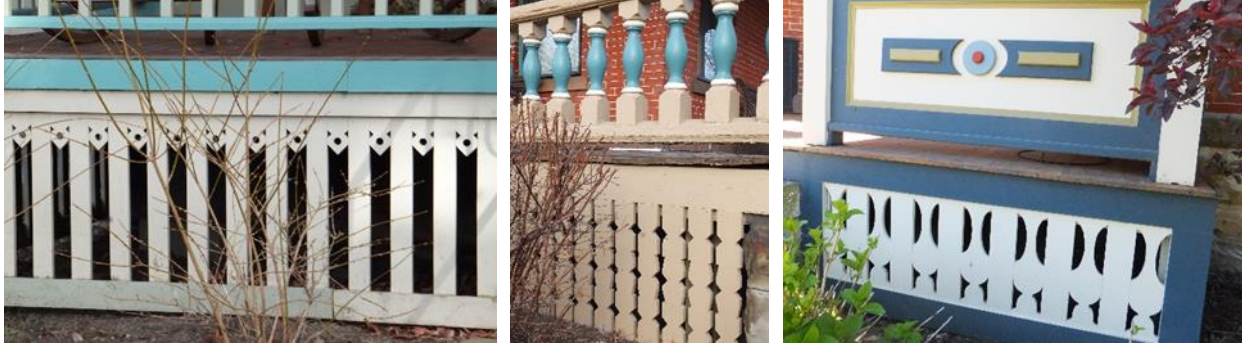
1. **Inspect annually for peeling paint, loose floor boards, rotting and deteriorating wood.**



2. **Remove any outdoor area rug periodically or after heavy rains to air out the deck underneath. Do the same for any leaky potted plants/flowers.**
3. **After a snowfall, shovel snow off porch deck as soon as possible**
4. **Check to make sure deck boards slope away from the house at ¼ in. per 12 ft. Deck boards should be laid in the direction of the slope.**



5. Make sure there is adequate venting in the porch skirting to allow airflow under the floor boards.



6. Scrape any loose paint and coat any exposed wood as soon as possible with appropriate exterior grade paint/sealer. Moisture can quickly cause rotting to non-treated surfaces.



7. Paint/stain/seal every 2-3 years for best protection.
8. Use products appropriate for exterior use; the wrong silicone, paint, stain, or untreated wood can cause more damage in the long run.



Questions? Call or email the Columbus Landmarks Home Preservation Program: 614-221-4508 / skeeney@columbuslandmarks.org
For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/45-wooden-porches.htm>