

## Hibernation – Not Just for Bears: Putting your house museum “to bed” for the season

### Trailing Questions

#### **Are sustainable practices with low chemical agents considered to the properties and can you provide examples of these products?**

Environmental sustainability is an organizational focus for Historic New England. We have made great strides with the sustainability of our environmental systems; our policies are outlined here.

In terms of cleaning products that we use – we make efforts to choose the least toxic and chemical laden products both for the safety of our collections, staff, and the environment in general. As you will see in our handout, most cleaning in the historic sites is done with small amounts of Simple Green® cleaner as it is a very mild surfactant. For glass cleaning, we make a solution of water, vinegar, and ethanol.

#### **Do you take any precautions for art work in the buildings?**

We do remove some paintings from exterior walls for the closed season, but only if there is a history of change or a known issue such as condensation or mold growth. Decisions are made on a case-to-case basis.

#### **Is there a preferred material for wrapping outdoor sculpture that can't be boxed or moved inside?**

Our conservator have weighed in on some resources and products for the protection of outdoor sculpture and garden ornaments. This website <<http://www.bi-gardenantiques.com/Maintenance.aspx>> has some good general guidelines for the care of outdoor objects in harsh climates.

And this is a product, *Weatherbags* < <http://www.bi-gardenantiques.com/Maintenance/Weatherbags.aspx>>, we have used as material to cover the sculptures and ornaments that cannot be removed or boxed.