

## Hardware

A building's hardware may consist of hinges, handles, knobs, latches, locks, knockers and mail slots. Conserving original hardware by undertaking regular maintenance and repair preserves your building's character, charm and authenticity.

### Replacement Hardware

Replacement of hardware can be very expensive and frustrating if trying to find pieces representative of a certain architectural style or historic period. If the original hardware has gone missing, look to historical sources, your neighbours' homes, and ask a professional for inspiration. If you are creating an addition to your heritage building, try to respect the original hardware by installing replicas or salvages of a similar style for the new units.

### Maintenance and Cleaning

Hardware should be maintained to ensure that your building's doors, windows and shutters are operating well. Hinges should be regularly polished and should not be painted as paint build up can inhibit their proper function. If you are painting the surface around the hardware, it is best to temporarily remove the hardware. The pins within hinges may also need to be wiped with oil.

Cleaning methods should be appropriately selected for the hardware's material to prevent damaging the metal. Refer to the Region of Waterloo's [Practical Guide: Paint & Colour](#) for appropriate paint removal methods for metal, and [Practical Guide: Asbestos, Mold & Lead Abatement](#) for information on the health hazards related to lead-based paint and necessary safety precautions.

### Loose and Sagging Hardware

If a piece of hardware begins to sag because the holes have become too large for the screws,

remove the screws and fill the holes with a mixture of small wood pieces and glue. Do not reinsert the screw until the glue has fully dried. Screws will also require periodical tightening.

## Locks

Your original locks may need to have their inner works cleaned and greased for optimal performance. Powdered graphite or lubricant spray is preferred to oil, which may cause a build up of dirt. Contemporary locks may need to be added on top of the heritage hardware due to rising expectations for safety provided by locks. If adding a lock to your door or window, ensure that it is visually appealing and respects the existing heritage features and hardware.

## References

If you would like to learn more about conserving hardware, please refer to the following primary sources:

City of Saint John. (2010). "Saint John Heritage Conservation Areas: Doors." City of Saint John Practical Conservation Guideline.

[http://www.heritagecanada.org/sites/www.heritagecanada.org/files/SaintJohn\\_Doors.pdf](http://www.heritagecanada.org/sites/www.heritagecanada.org/files/SaintJohn_Doors.pdf)

Hanson, S. & Hubby, N. (1983). "Preserving and Maintaining the Older Home." New York: McGraw-hill.

"Preserving Your Metals," in Nuts and Bolts. Reprinted from Canadian Heritage Magazine, (May 1982): 39-42.

Sidler, S. (2014). "How to: Remove Paint from Hardware." The Craftsman Blog.

[http://thecraftsmanblog.com/how-to-remove-paint-from-hardware/?utm\\_content=bufferd5558&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://thecraftsmanblog.com/how-to-remove-paint-from-hardware/?utm_content=bufferd5558&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

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