

# Opening-Up Checklist

- Do a preliminary walk-around inspection of cottage
- Trim back trees overhanging cottage\*
- Gather loose brush into piles for kindling
- Take down shutters\*
- Check for and replace chewed electrical wires
- Put up screens and patch holes before bugs find them
- Prime and start the pump
- Check for shifting foundations
- Inspect the roof and eaves for loose or missing shingles, faulty flashing, gaping holes\*
- Clean eavestroughs
- Check appliances for critter damage or habitation before turning on
- Fill the hot-water tank (before turning on the heating element – doh!)
- Test batteries in flashlights and smoke and CO detectors
- Clean the woodstove and fireplace chimneys\*
- Build pass-through window on back porch\*
- Clean up after mice with damp mop and disinfectant\*
- Reconnect water pipes
- Find mouse holes and block the suckers with steel wool

- Take care of foot valve
- Wood preservative!!
- Block off squirrel holes
- Repair sticky doors and windows\*
- Fix broken window panes and replace old putty
- Check and replace damaged caulking and weatherstripping
- Inspect and tighten loose deck stairs and railings
- Give the boat its spring tune-up\*
- Find out why pads under deck posts are shifting\*
- Buy fuel for oil lamps
- Stock up on candles and matches
- Discard food in pantry if it shows signs of mice or bug visitation
- Pitch out food tins bulging or swollen from freezing
- Replace old herbs and spices in pantry
- Restock medicine cabinet and first aid kits
- Sharpen blades on trimmer and chainsaw\*
- Put up the flagpole and replace worn halyards \*
- Clean barbecue\*
- Fix tippy dock
- Tighten or reinstall loose dock cleats and rings

- Inspect flotation in floating docks\*
- Fix friggin' potholes in lane\*
- Hammer in raised nails on dock and repair loose boards\*
- Inspect life preservers for damage; make sure there are enough for everybody\*
- Do kids' lifejackets still fit?
- Make horseshoe pit before family reunion!!!\*
- Clean and set out porch furniture
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- Sit down, have a beer