



HOUSE TOUR
HOMEOWNERS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I put my home on the Newton House Tour?

The Newton House Tour is one of Historic Newton's largest annual fundraisers in support of its educational programs. Your participation provides critical support to a local non-profit organization that has been preserving Newton's history and serving the community for over 60 years.

Other benefits of including your home on the tour are:

- 2 free tickets to the Preview Party, a cocktail party to celebrate the House Tour and honor the homeowners
- 2 free tickets to the House Tour
- An historic house marker for your home or a reprint of an historic map of your neighborhood

It's fun to be a host! After the tour homeowners told us:

- "I wanted to thank you for the superb job all of you did with our house yesterday. It was a total pleasure for us...The house looked untouched 30 seconds after the last person disappeared, and we had a blast talking to people."
- "My experience of the House Tour was very positive. You did a meticulous job. Everything went smoothly. Kudos to all! I so loved having my neighbors as hosts/volunteers that I recommend this to other homeowners in the future."

What will Historic Newton do to protect my property during the House Tour?

Historic Newton's liability coverage extends to the House Tour. Your homeowner's insurance covers the risk of damage or loss. In over 30 years of doing the House Tour, Historic Newton has had no incidents of theft in any of the homes featured on the House Tour. In addition, your House Tour committee concierge – your main contact from the committee – will consult with you about any possessions you wish to remove for Tour day. Volunteers are stationed throughout your home to monitor visitors' actions. On Tour day visitors are required to follow an indicated route through the house. Visitors are not permitted to sit on furniture, open doors or drawers, use telephones or bathrooms in the house, or take photographs.

What if I want to keep parts of my home private?

On the day of the tour we can use ribbon to block access to rooms that visitors can see but not walk through. If you would prefer to keep rooms entirely private, the doors can be closed for the duration of the tour.

Do I have to be at home during the tour?

You can choose to stay at your home, use your free ticket to enjoy the other homes on

the House Tour, or simply leave for the day. Let your concierge know what you plan to do. If you will not be home at the time that the concierge arrives to set up or at the end of the day, please let your concierge know how to enter and close up your house.

How will my privacy be protected before and after the day of the tour?

Addresses of the homes on each year's tour are revealed only on the day of the tour in the booklet that serves as the tour ticket and map. We do ask whether you are willing to have your home photographed and whether you are willing to be interviewed to help us promote the tour. But unless you give us permission to do so, we will not share your name with anyone. Photos we use for publicity will not show the home's main entrance or other exterior details that would allow people to identify the home before the tour.

How many volunteers will be stationed in my home?

In the weeks before the tour your concierge will work with you in advance to plan

- the best route for visitors to take through your home
- how many volunteers are needed and where they should be stationed
- special instructions or information that should be given to volunteers.

The concierge also serves as one of the two volunteer leaders on the day of the tour

Shift leaders are in charge of the volunteers at your home during the tour. Volunteers receive an advance copy of the tour write-up about the house. We also share with volunteers any other information you wish to provide, such as historical research you have done about your home or specific concerns you have.

Do I have to prepare my house for the tour or clean up after it?

We ask that you set aside a private space for volunteers to keep their coats, purses, and other belongings while they are stationed at your home. Please also assign a bathroom that you will allow the volunteer crew to use. Aside from that, your home just needs to be ready to receive guests on the day of the tour. At the beginning of the day the concierge or first shift leader will set up signs and use ribbon to block rooms that visitors may not walk through. At the end of the day, volunteers are responsible for removing all signs, ribbons, and other materials used during the tour.

Still have questions?

Contact Laura Grzybowski, at lgrzybowski@historicnewton.org or 617-641-9142, ext. 11. Thank you for your interest in working with Historic Newton to celebrate Newton's rich and varied architecture through the Newton House Tour.