



Professional Property Inspections

NEWSLETTER



Is it okay if my house looks like the Ivy League?

While we are doing our home inspections, we often see tree branches or shrubs attached to or leaning on the house. It's okay but be aware of the potential issues.

Tree branches or shrubs in contact with or laying on the roof or siding often move with the wind and can damage the siding or roofing because of rubbing.

Also, trees, shrubs, and ivy serve as a ladder for spiders and other creepy crawlers, including termites and carpenter ants, enabling them to crawl under the siding and make their way into your house.

In addition, ivy growing on wood siding can cause it to rot. Pulling ivy off wood can cause a lot of deterioration to the point of needing repairs. Ivy has little tendrils that grow into wood and bricks. If you pull the ivy down, it leaves an unsightly residual appearance.

So, what's best approach? First, do not let foliage/vegetation come in contact with the house. We always suggest cutting the foliage back to enable someone to walk between the foliage and the house, (all the way around the house). If the foliage is already in contact with your house, cut it back and check for damaged surfaces. If ivy is growing on the house, cut all the roots/stems where they come out of the ground and let the ivy disintegrate. But be aware that the ivy tendrils will not come off wood or masonry surfaces when you pull the ivy away. Repairs may be necessary.

If you are interested, all our previous newsletters are available on our website blog. Click on the following link and it will take you right to it.

<https://safeharborinspections.com/blog/>