READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Asphalt paving rough-in inspection checklist

Asphalt paving rough-in is the last time the work is fully visible. Once the cover inspection passes and the walls, ceilings and slabs close, every defect left behind becomes a demolition bill. This checklist walks the rough-in in the order the work goes in, with the photo each item needs before it gets buried. Work is commonly verified against the project geotechnical report and specifications. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The GC's superintendent with the paving contractor and, where required, the testing agency, walking the prepared subgrade and base before the paver arrives. When: After the base is placed and graded, before any asphalt goes down. Once the mat is on, a soft spot or a flat area in the base can only be fixed by tearing it back out.

Base condition

- [ ] **Aggregate base compaction observed and documented** — 2 photos required
  Compaction results reviewed against the specified density across the area, including edges and tight corners, not just open runs.
- [ ] **Proof-roll run and soft spots corrected** — 2 photos required
  Loaded truck or roller run over the base, deflecting or pumping areas marked, undercut and replaced rather than paved over.
- [ ] **Subgrade observation report on file for each area** — No photo required
  The geotechnical engineer's or testing agency's subgrade observation for every area on file before base went over it, with any undercut areas it called out closed.
- [ ] **Base aggregate tickets match the approved submittal** — 1 photo required
  Delivery tickets show the material type, gradation and source on the approved aggregate submittal, not a substitute from another pit.
- [ ] **Base thickness checked against the pavement section** — 1 photo required
  Depth probed or measured from grade stakes at intervals and at the edges, matching the section on the drawings rather than thinning out at the far end.
- [ ] **Base surface tight with no segregated or loose pockets** — 1 photo required
  No nests of coarse stone or washed-out fines, surface bound and tight, not raveled or loosened by construction traffic since compaction.
- [ ] **Base not saturated, frozen or rutted before paving** — 1 photo required
  No standing water, frost or pumping mud on the base, and no ruts left by haul trucks crossing it after the proof-roll.

Grade and slope

- [ ] **Grade and cross-slope checked against the plan** — 2 photos required
  Finished base grade shot against the drainage plan, cross-slope confirmed to fall toward the inlets and away from buildings, no flat or reverse-pitch stretches.
- [ ] **Accessible stalls and routes shot for slope on the base** — No photo required
  Where the plan shows accessible stalls, aisles or routes, their slopes shot on the base against the drawings, since the mat will follow what the base holds.
- [ ] **Base carried past the edge of pavement** — 1 photo required
  Aggregate base extends beyond the mat edge as the pavement section shows, so the edge of asphalt is supported and not feathered onto soil.

Drainage structures

- [ ] Inlets and edges set to receive the mat
  Inlet and structure rims at the planned finished elevation relative to the base, base tight to curbs and structures so the mat can be laid without a low collar.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Utility castings in the paved area located and set
  Manhole lids, valve boxes and cleanouts inside the paving limits found and either set to finished grade or marked for raising after paving per the plan.
  No photo required

Paving readiness

- [ ] Air and surface temperature within the placement limits
  Thermometer reading of air and base surface taken the morning of paving and compared with the specification's placement limits and the forecast.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Mix design for each course approved and on file
  Approved mix design submittals on file for the base and surface courses, matching the mix types the specification calls for.
  No photo required