

Drywall final inspection checklist

Drywall final inspection is where the punch list is either short or expensive. This checklist walks the finished work the way an owner or AHJ will see it: devices on, systems running, everything labeled. Each item gets the photo that closes it instead of reopening it. Work is commonly verified against GA-216 / ASTM C840 guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The finishing crew lead at completion, then the GC or owner's representative at final walk. When: After the final coat and sanding are complete, before prime paint, using raking light to catch defects paint will highlight.

Joint and surface finish

- ☐ Joints and fastener heads invisible under raking light
Hold a light at a low angle across the wall; no visible ridges, dimples or joint lines. 2 photos required
- ☐ Sanding smooth without scuffing the paper face
Surface uniformly smooth with no fuzzy paper, sanding scratches or gouges from the sander. 1 photo required
- ☐ Finish level matches what's specified for the location
Higher finish level at surfaces with critical lighting or gloss paint versus utility or concealed areas. 1 photo required
- ☐ Butt joints flat with no crown under a straightedge
A straightedge laid across taped butt joints rocks on no hump wide enough to read as a band once painted. 1 photo required
- ☐ No new pops, hairline cracks or tape blisters
Surface checked after the last coat dried for fastener pops, cracks along joints or bubbled tape that lifted. 1 photo required

Corners and trim

- ☐ Corner bead straight and consistently coated
Outside corners run true with no waviness, compound feathered evenly on both sides. 2 photos required
- ☐ Inside corners crisp with no cracking
Tape fully embedded at inside angles, no visible cracking or separation at the corner line. 1 photo required
- ☐ Reveal and trim details clean and consistent
Reveal beads and any specialty trim run straight and consistently sized along their length. 1 photo required
- ☐ Compound cut back clean at door frames and window returns
No buildup at jambs or frames that would keep casing, stops or hardware from sitting flat. 1 photo required
- ☐ Control joints finished open and free of compound
Where control joints are installed, the slot is clean along its length, protective strip pulled, compound kept out so the joint can move. No photo required

Texture and patch matching

- ☐ Skim coat and texture match adjacent surfaces
Patched or skim-coated areas blend with surrounding texture, no visible patch outline once primed. 2 photos required
- ☐ Dust and debris cleaned before paint
Sanding dust removed from walls, floors and adjacent surfaces before the painter arrives. 1 photo required
- ☐ Final coat fully dry before the room is released for primer
No dark or cool damp spots in the last coat, especially at thick fills, butt joints and corners, so primer is not sealing over wet compound. No photo required

- ☐ **Handoff walk held with the painting lead**
Finishing lead and painter walked the rooms together and agreed which marks are drywall repairs versus paint prep. No photo required