

Drywall pre-cover inspection checklist

A drywall pre-cover inspection is the hold point before concealed work disappears behind the next layer. This checklist is built for that walk: verify, photograph, then release the cover, not the other way around. Work is commonly verified against GA-216 / ASTM C840 guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The GC's superintendent or drywall foreman walking the boarded surface just before finishing starts. When: After board is hung and before the first coat of joint compound or tape goes on, since finishing hides board-level defects.

Fastener condition

- ☐ No overdriven, missed or exposed fasteners
Every fastener seated in a proper dimple with paper intact; no fastener visible above the surface. 2 photos required
- ☐ Fastener depth verified across a sample of each room
Run a hand across a sample of screws per room to confirm none are proud of the surface. 1 photo required

Board and joint condition

- ☐ Damaged or stained board sections replaced, not finished over
No dented, torn or water-stained board left in place at wall or ceiling surfaces. 2 photos required
- ☐ Joint gaps within the tolerance for taping
Gaps between sheets narrow enough for tape and compound to bridge without excess buildup. 1 photo required
- ☐ Corners and inside angles solidly backed
Framing or backing present behind every inside and outside corner before corner bead or tape is applied. 1 photo required
- ☐ Crushed or broken board edges cut back before taping
Butt ends and cut edges with crumbled gypsum or loose paper trimmed to sound core so tape has a solid bed. 1 photo required
- ☐ Every hole larger than a screw patched with fitted board
Holes from moved or abandoned boxes and oversized cutouts filled with a fitted board patch and backing, not bridged with compound alone. 1 photo required
- ☐ No lipped edges between adjacent sheets
Sheet faces flush at every joint, with no edge standing proud off a crowned stud or joist that tape and compound would have to be feathered over. 1 photo required

Beads and trim

- ☐ Corner bead fastened tight with no hollow spots
Press along each outside bead; no flex, gap behind the flange or bead standing off the board anywhere on its length. 1 photo required
- ☐ Every exposed board edge beaded or taped as scheduled
Edges meeting frames, windows, ceilings or other materials carry the J- or L-bead the finish schedule shows, or are taped where it shows none. 1 photo required

Ready to tape

- ☐ Space conditioned and ventilated for joint compound
Thermometer reading in the room within the compound manufacturer's range, with air moving so coats can dry. 1 photo required

- ☐ **Tape and compound on site match the submittal**
Bag and box labels photographed: compound type (all-purpose, lightweight, setting) and tape match the submittal, with mold-resistant products staged for wet areas. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Device boxes flush with the board face**
Boxes and mud rings set flush with or just behind the board, not proud of it or buried deep enough to need extension rings after paint. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Rated joints above ceilings included in the taping scope**
Confirm the finishing crew has rated walls above the ceiling line in scope where the assembly detail calls for taped joints. No photo required