

Drywall rough-in inspection checklist

Drywall 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 GA-216 / ASTM C840 guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The drywall foreman checking their own hanging crew, or the GC's superintendent before releasing walls for tape.
When: After board is hung on a wall or ceiling and before the taping crew starts finishing that area.

Board hanging

- ☐ **Fastener spacing and pattern match the assembly requirements**
Screws or nails at the specified spacing along field and edges, no missed studs or skipped rows. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Fasteners seated without breaking the paper face**
Screw heads set slightly below the surface in a dimple, no paper torn or fastener overdriven through the core. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Joints staggered and not aligned across adjacent sheets**
Butt joints offset from row to row, no joints lining up over a single stud or ceiling framing member. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Bottom edge of wall board held off the floor**
Board lifted clear of the slab or subfloor by the gap the spec shows, so it cannot wick water from a wet floor. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Board hung only over walls released by cover inspections**
Confirm with the super that framing, MEP and insulation cover inspections were passed for this area before board went up. No photo required

Openings and layout

- ☐ **Cutouts at boxes, fixtures and penetrations sized close to the device**
Gap around electrical boxes and penetrations small enough to be covered by the plate or trim, not a rough hole. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Board type matches the location**
Moisture- or mold-resistant board at wet areas, correct thickness at ceilings versus walls. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Control joints installed where wall runs exceed the spacing limit**
Control joint present at long uninterrupted wall or ceiling runs per the layout, not just at natural breaks. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Sheets wrap the corners of door and window openings**
Board cut in an L around head corners so no joint lines up with the edge of the opening, where cracks start. 1 photo required

Rated assemblies

- ☐ **Layer count and orientation match the rated assembly detail**
Correct number of layers installed, base layer joints offset from face layer joints as detailed. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Fastener type and spacing match the rated assembly listing**
Screw length and spacing at rated walls match the tested assembly, not the standard non-rated pattern. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Rated wall boundaries continuous to structure**
Board runs tight to deck or structure above, no gap left at the top of a rated partition. 1 photo required

- ☐ **Rated board type confirmed from the stamp on the sheet**
Printed type marking on the back or edge of the board matches the rated board called for in the wall type. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Penetrations through rated board left clean for firestopping**
Openings at pipe, conduit and duct cut to the size the firestop system needs, not packed with scrap board or oversized. 1 photo required