READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Expansion joint systems rough-in inspection checklist

Expansion joint systems 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 manufacturer's published instructions, the applicable building code. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The joint-system installer with the GC's superintendent, releasing the prepared joint before the cover assembly goes on. When: After the blockout is formed and any nosing and anchors are set, before the cover assembly and adjacent finishes close over the joint.

Joint schedule and delivery

- [ ] Each joint run matched to its approved system
  Every floor, wall, ceiling and roof joint on the drawings tied to the approved submittal for that run, with its movement rating and nominal width noted.
  No photo required

- [ ] Frame and cover packaging labels match the submittal
  Model, size, finish and movement rating on the delivered frames and covers read against the approved submittal before any piece is cut or set.
  1 photo required

Blockout and nosing

- [ ] Blockout width and nosing correct for the rated movement
  Gap measured against the system's movement range at the current temperature, nosing formed square and to the right depth for the cover.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Substrate and anchors sound at the joint edges
  Edge concrete solid and clean, anchors set to the specified pattern and embedment, no crumbling or featheredged nosing.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Gap even end to end with no taper between the slab edges
  Slab edges run parallel along the whole run; any taper or offset beyond what the frame can take up is flagged to the super before frames are set.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Both sides of the joint at the same elevation
  Straightedge laid across the gap at intervals; any step between the two sides noted per run for the installer to shim or grind per the manufacturer.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Joint cavity clear of forms, debris and concrete bridges
  Form boards, filler strips and concrete fins removed full depth, so nothing in the gap ties the two sides of the building together.
  1 photo required

Frame setting

- [ ] Frame rails set to the finished floor or wall height
  Rails set to the finish elevation on the drawings, allowing for tile, carpet, topping or wall finish, so the cover lands flush once finishes are in.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Frames set at the gap the temperature chart gives today
  Setting gap read from the manufacturer's temperature chart, measured at the frame and written on the joint log with the time and air temperature.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Anchor drilling checked against slab reinforcement
  Anchor locations checked against the structural drawings, or the slab scanned first where it is post-tensioned; no cut tendons or bars at the joint edge.
  No photo required

Barrier continuity

- [ ] Fire barrier continuous through the joint
  Fire barrier packed continuous along the joint and carried through changes of plane, no gaps where the floor joint turns up a wall.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Water barrier continuous at the joint
  Waterproofing or membrane lapped into the joint and continuous at transitions, drainage path maintained where the system sheds water.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Fire barrier matches the listed joint system on rated runs
  On runs the drawings show as rated, barrier model, width range and orientation read against the listed system; unrated runs noted as such on the joint log.
  No photo required

Handoff to finishes

- [ ] Finish crews told the frame height and the no-fill zone
  Tile, flooring and wall finish foremen shown where each frame sits and told no mortar, grout, patch or fasteners go into the joint or across the frame.
  No photo required

- [ ] Open joints covered where traffic crosses them
  Plywood or the maker's temporary cover spans the open joint at traffic routes, fastened to one side only so it does not lock the gap.
  1 photo required