READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Exterior decking punch checklist

Exterior decking punch is where small misses become callbacks after the crew has demobilized. This checklist walks the finished work the way the owner and the next trade will see it, with the photo that closes each item instead of a note that reopens it. Work is commonly verified against the applicable building code, manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The deck crew on a callback, or the GC's superintendent clearing deck punch items before turnover. When: During closeout, after the deck has been used and after the first weather cycle reveals movement and fastener pops.

Boards and fasteners

- [ ] Loose boards and popped fasteners corrected
  Loose or cupped boards re-fastened into sound framing, popped fasteners set or replaced, surface left flat and tight.
  No photo required

- [ ] Board gaps checked open after the first warm spell
  Side and end gaps still open across every run, no boards buckled or pushed tight to the house or posts; tight spots re-gapped per the decking maker.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Board faces checked for rust, tannin and tool marks
  Composite faces cleaned of rust spots, scuffs and cutting dust with the cleaner the maker lists; wood boards checked for tannin or fastener staining.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Exposed cut ends treated or covered as the maker directs
  Field-cut board ends, fascia and stair treads end-sealed, capped or hidden by fascia per the decking maker, no raw core or untreated wood left at an edge.
  1 photo required

Guards and finish

- [ ] Wobbly guards re-anchored and finish re-checked
  Guards and railings re-anchored to blocking and re-tested for movement, damaged boards or finish repaired, item photographed closed.
  No photo required

- [ ] Post caps and rail tops checked tight and shedding water
  Post caps and top rails fastened with no rocking, no water standing in post sleeves or on flat rail tops, loose caps re-set with the specified adhesive or screw.
  No photo required

Water, connections and release

- [ ] Wall below the deck door checked dry after rain or a hose test
  Rim, siding and the interior below the door sill checked after rain or a hose test, with water leaving over the flashing and not behind the deck.
  No photo required

- [ ] Connections visible from below re-checked after first use
  Where the underside can be reached, hangers, post bases and lateral connectors still tight, shrinkage gaps at bolts noted, loose ledger or beam nuts re-tightened.
  No photo required

- [ ] Owner's deck walk items merged and closed before release
  Items from the owner's and architect's deck walk added to the crew list, each closed with a photo reference before the deck is released for use.
  No photo required