

Exterior decking rough-in inspection checklist

Exterior decking 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 the applicable building code, manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The deck framing crew, or the GC's superintendent walking the structure before the deck boards hide the framing.

When: After posts, beams, joists and the ledger are set and before decking is laid, while every connection is still open to view.

Ledger and flashing

- ☐ Ledger flashed and through-bolted to structure
Ledger fastened with bolts or structural screws on the specified pattern into solid framing, flashing lapped over the ledger to shed water behind the deck. 2 photos required

Framing and connectors

- ☐ Joists, beams and hangers sized and fully fastened
Members sized and spaced per the drawings, hangers and connectors filled with the specified structural fasteners, no empty holes or wrong nails. 2 photos required

Posts and footings

- ☐ Posts anchored to footings and tied to beams
Posts set on footings with proper standoff and anchors, post-to-beam connectors installed, no post in direct ground or standing water contact. 2 photos required