

Flooring installation inspection checklist

Two numbers decide whether a floor lasts: substrate flatness and substrate moisture. Both have to be measured and recorded before material is opened, because after installation neither can be proven and both become somebody's warranty claim.

Who runs it: Flooring contractor; the GC verifies the substrate readings before material is accepted on site. When: Substrate and moisture testing before delivery, acclimation before installation, protection immediately after.

Substrate

- ☐ Flatness measured against the tolerance for the product
Straightedge readings recorded at multiple locations, photographed with the gap visible. 3 photos required
- ☐ Substrate clean, sound and free of contaminants
No curing compounds, adhesive residue or drywall mud left on the slab. 2 photos required
- ☐ Cracks and joints treated per the system
Moving joints honoured through the floor, not bridged and left to telegraph. 2 photos required

Moisture and conditions

- ☐ Moisture testing performed with results recorded by location
Test method, reading and location on a plan. One number for a whole floor is not a test. 3 photos required
- ☐ Building conditioned to service conditions before installation
HVAC operating, temperature and humidity within range and recorded. 1 photo required
- ☐ Material acclimated for the required period
Delivery date, storage location and acclimation start recorded. 2 photos required

Installation

- ☐ Layout set and dry-laid before fixing
Starting line, cut sizes at the perimeter, and pattern verified against the plan. 2 photos required
- ☐ Adhesive, underlayment or fastening as specified
Correct trowel notch and coverage; check a lifted piece for transfer. 2 photos required
- ☐ Expansion gaps maintained at all perimeters and penetrations
Gap present behind base and at columns, doors and thresholds. 2 photos required

Finish and protection

- ☐ Transitions, thresholds and base complete
Secure, level with the adjacent finish, scribed where the floor is uneven. 2 photos required
- ☐ Surface free of lippage, hollow spots and damage
Sound test hard surfaces; check lippage across the room, not just one tile. 2 photos required
- ☐ Protection installed immediately after installation
Breathable protection, taped to itself rather than to the finish. 2 photos required