

Foundation inspection checklist

Everything above the foundation depends on decisions that get buried within a week. This walk follows the sequence from open excavation to backfill so each stage is photographed while it is still open.

Who runs it: Concrete or foundation contractor with the GC; a geotechnical or special inspector where required. When: At open excavation, before each pour, and again before backfill. Three short walks, not one long one.

Excavation and bearing

- ☐ Excavation to design depth and dimension
Measure to the benchmark and photograph the reading, not just the hole. 2 photos required
- ☐ Bearing material as anticipated and approved
No fill, no organics, no soft or disturbed material at the bearing plane. 2 photos required
- ☐ Excavation dry, protected and safely sloped or shored
No water in the bottom; sides stable for anyone who has to work in it. 2 photos required

Footings

- ☐ Footing dimensions and step locations as designed
Width, depth and step heights measured against the plan. 2 photos required
- ☐ Reinforcement size, spacing, lap and cover correct
Bars supported off the ground; measure cover and photograph the tape. 3 photos required
- ☐ Dowels for walls and columns placed and secured
Correct location and projection; not pushed in after placement. 2 photos required

Walls and anchorage

- ☐ Wall forms to line, plumb and dimension
Diagonals checked, top of wall at the design elevation. 2 photos required
- ☐ Wall reinforcement and openings as detailed
Bars at the correct face, added reinforcement at openings, sleeves in place. 3 photos required
- ☐ Anchor bolts and hold-downs placed to spacing and embedment
Set with a template before the pour and photographed with a tape in frame. 3 photos required

Protection and backfill

- ☐ Damp-proofing or waterproofing applied and continuous
Full coverage to the required height, detailed at the footing joint. 2 photos required
- ☐ Foundation drain installed with filter fabric and free-draining stone
Pipe sloped to discharge, fabric lapped, stone clean and to the required depth. 3 photos required
- ☐ Wall braced and cured before backfill, backfill placed in lifts
Floor framing or bracing in place; no dumping the pile against a green wall. 2 photos required