READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Landscaping and irrigation rough-in inspection checklist

Landscaping and irrigation 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 project specifications, manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The irrigation foreman walking open trenches, or the GC's superintendent releasing the site for backfill. When: After trenching and before backfill, and before paving or hardscape covers any sleeve crossings, so a missed sleeve or a nicked line is still reachable.

Mainline and laterals

- [ ] Mainline and lateral routing and depth per plan
  Pipe run where the plan shows it, trench depth and cover checked against the specified burial depth for mainline versus laterals.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Mainline pressure-tested before backfill
  Charged line held at the specified test pressure with joints exposed and dry, gauge and glued joints photographed before any cover goes in.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Pipe markings match the approved submittal
  Printed marking on the pipe photographed showing material, class or schedule and size, matched to the submittal for mainline and for laterals.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Glued joints primed and cemented all the way around
  Pipe cut square and deburred, primer visible at each joint, cement bead continuous around the fitting per the manufacturer's instructions; no dry-fit joints.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Trench bottom free of rock with the pipe evenly bedded
  No stones, roots or debris under or against the pipe, pipe resting on smooth soil or the bedding the spec calls for rather than bridging high spots.
  1 photo required

Sleeves and crossings

- [ ] Sleeves placed under all paving and hardscape crossings
  Sleeve at every walk, drive and curb crossing per plan, sized larger than the pipe and wire it carries, ends marked and capped so they aren't paved over.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Sleeve depth and extension past the paving edge per detail
  Each sleeve set below the paving section at the depth the detail shows and running past the edge of walk or curb far enough to be found and joined later.
  1 photo required

Valves and control wiring

- [ ] Valve boxes set to grade with valves accessible
  Boxes level and set to finish grade, valve and its wiring reachable, gravel sump under the valve, no soil packed around the bonnet.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Control wiring run, spliced and slack left at turns
  Wire bundled below or beside the mainline, waterproof splices only at valves, an expansion loop at each box and at direction changes, spare wire pulled where the plan calls for it.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Backflow assembly roughed in and supported
  Assembly set at the specified height above grade, isolation on the correct side, supported so it doesn't hang on the piping, ready for the certified test.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Control wire gauge and colors match the spec
  Jacket print photographed showing gauge and the direct-burial rating, with common and station wires in the colors the spec assigns.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Controller location and power coordinated with the electrician
  Controller mounting spot per plan confirmed with the electrician's circuit and a conduit or sleeve path for station wire into the enclosure.
  No photo required

Backfill release

- [ ] Backfill placed in lifts with rock-free soil at the pipe
  First lift of screened or rock-free soil placed around the pipe by hand, the rest in lifts compacted per the spec so the trench line won't settle.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Laterals flushed before heads and emitters go on
  Each zone run open-ended with its valve on until water runs clear, so trench debris doesn't end up in nozzles, screens or emitters.
  No photo required
- [ ] Sleeve, valve and wire routes recorded for the as-builts
  Each sleeve end, valve box and wire route dimensioned from two fixed points and marked on the record set before the trench or paving covers it.
  No photo required