

Masonry rough-in inspection checklist

Masonry 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 TMS standards. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The mason foreman checking their own first courses, or the GC's superintendent verifying layout before the wall climbs. When: After the first course or two is set and before the wall gains enough height to make correcting layout or bond pattern disruptive.

Base and materials

- ☐ **Bearing surface clean and true for the first bed joint**
Footing or slab top free of laitance, debris and ice; high and low spots small enough for the bed joint the spec allows. 1 photo required
- ☐ **First course lands on its dowels or bearing ledge as drawn**
Dowels land in cells to be grouted without field bending, or veneer bears on the ledge or angle with the overhang the detail allows; misses flagged to the engineer of record. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Units and mortar on site match the approved submittals**
Pallet tags and mortar bag labels photographed: unit type, size and color and the mortar type match the approved submittal, not a substitute. 1 photo required

Layout and coursing

- ☐ **Wall lines and corners set to the layout**
String lines and corner poles match the control points; wall thickness and offsets match the plan. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Coursing height and bond pattern consistent**
Unit heights and running or stack bond pattern hold true across the wall, no drifting joint lines. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Units sound and free of defects before they're set**
No chipped, cracked or spalled units placed at exposed faces or corners. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Wall plumb, level and in plane at corners and midspan**
Level held on the face and top of the lift at corners, jambs and midspan, no lean or bow outside the spec'd tolerance. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Rough openings and lintel bearing set to the drawings**
Door and window openings sized and located as drawn, lintel bearing length at each jamb matching the detail. 1 photo required

Mortar and joints

- ☐ **Mortar mixed and placed within workable time**
Batch consistency uniform, no retempered mortar used past its working window. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Head and bed joints filled full**
No voids visible at joint faces before tooling; furrowing not excessive at the bed joint. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Joints tooled to a consistent profile**
Concave, weathered or struck profile matches the spec and is uniform course to course. 2 photos required

- ☐ **Fresh work covered and protected at the end of the shift**
Tops of walls covered against rain, with blankets, enclosure, heat or wind screens added when the cold or hot weather plan calls for them. **1 photo required**

Reinforcement and cells

- ☐ **Vertical bar placed and positioned before cells are built up around it**
Bar size and spacing match the schedule, held centered in the cell with positioners. **2 photos required**
- ☐ **Horizontal joint reinforcement set at the specified courses**
Ladder or truss reinforcement present at every required course, lapped at splices. **1 photo required**
- ☐ **Cleanout openings left at the base of cells to be grouted**
Openings sized to allow debris removal, mortar droppings not blocking the cell below. **1 photo required**