

Painting pre-cover inspection checklist

A painting pre-cover inspection is the hold point before concealed work disappears behind the next layer. This checklist is built for that walk: verify, photograph, then release the cover, not the other way around. Work is commonly verified against manufacturer data sheets, MPI guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The painting foreman or GC's superintendent checking the prime coat before scheduling final coats. When: After the primer or first coat has dried and before the second or finish coat is applied.

Prime coat coverage

- ☐ **Prime coat free of holidays, thin spots or bare substrate**
Check under raking light for missed spots, uneven sheen or substrate showing through the coat. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Recoat time met before applying the next coat**
Elapsed time since the prime coat meets the manufacturer's minimum recoat window for conditions. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Primer film build consistent with the product data**
Wet-film gauge reading, or gallons used against area covered, in line with the spread rate the manufacturer lists. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Patched and compound areas sealed with no flashing**
Patches show the same sheen as the surrounding field once primed, not dull spots that will flash through the finish. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Stains and knots sealed with a stain-blocking primer**
Any water marks, marker, smoke or knots in wood trim covered with a stain blocker so they cannot bleed into the topcoat. No photo required
- ☐ **Primed walls checked for newly visible defects**
Dents, sanding scratches and joint lines that only show once primed marked, filled, sanded and spot-primed again before finish coats. 1 photo required

Joints and transitions

- ☐ **Caulk joints filled and tooled at trim, corners and transitions**
Continuous caulk bead at gaps between trim, casings and adjacent surfaces, tooled smooth before coating. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Masking and protection still intact after the first coat**
Tape edges clean with no bleed-through, adjacent surfaces still protected before final coats. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Surface free of dust, drips or debris before recoating**
No settled dust, insects or runs from the first coat left on the surface before the next coat. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Caulk cured and paint-ready before the finish coat**
Bead past the paint-ready time on its label, firm to the touch, with no shrinking or cracking at trim joints. 1 photo required

Finish coat readiness

- ☐ **Prime coat adhesion tape-tested on each substrate**
Tape pulled from primer at a sample spot on each substrate in the area, glossy or metal surfaces first, comes away clean with no coating lifted. 1 photo required

- ☐ **Finish paint boxed or batch numbers recorded**
Cans of the same color intermixed, or batch numbers on the labels logged, before final coats go on the walls. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Field sample of color and sheen accepted**
A sample wall or first room reviewed by the owner or architect and noted on the log before finish coats start. No photo required
- ☐ **No sanding or device work left in rooms before final coats**
Super confirms drywall repairs, sanding and trim or device installs in the area are done before finish coats. No photo required