

Painting rough-in inspection checklist

Painting 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 manufacturer data sheets, MPI guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The painting foreman checking their own prep crew, or the GC's superintendent before coating starts. When: After surfaces are ready to receive paint and before the first coat is applied, once other trades have finished work in the area.

Substrate condition

- ☐ Substrate moisture within the coating manufacturer's limits
Moisture meter reading on new drywall, plaster or masonry before priming, especially in recently wet-worked areas. 1 photo required
- ☐ Surface clean, dry and free of dust or grease
No sanding dust, oil, mildew or release agent residue left on the surface before coating begins. 1 photo required
- ☐ Substrate defects identified before coating covers them
Cracks, nail pops and rust noted and addressed, not painted over as-is. 1 photo required
- ☐ Trim, doors, frames and other non-drywall substrates prepped
Glossy trim and doors scuff-sanded or deglossed, bare metal frames cleaned of loose rust and mill scale, masonry past its cure with efflorescence brushed off. 1 photo required

Patching and sanding

- ☐ Patches and skim areas sanded smooth and feathered
Patch edges blended into the surrounding surface with no visible ridge or step. 2 photos required
- ☐ Nail holes, joints and fastener dimples filled
All visible fastener heads and small defects filled before the primer coat, not left for paint to hide. 1 photo required
- ☐ Drywall finish accepted from the finisher before prime
Super or finishing lead walked the rooms with the painter first, so joint flash is not later blamed on the paint. No photo required

Priming and masking

- ☐ Primer appropriate for the substrate and topcoat system
Primer type matches the manufacturer's recommendation for this substrate, sealing patches and bare areas. 1 photo required
- ☐ Masking and protection complete before coating starts
Hardware, trim, flooring and adjacent finishes covered or removed, edges taped cleanly. 2 photos required
- ☐ Ventilation and temperature within application range
Area ventilated and within the manufacturer's temperature and humidity range for application and cure. 1 photo required
- ☐ Paint product data approved for each coating system
Product data for every primer and finish on the schedule approved by the architect or owner before cans are opened. No photo required
- ☐ Can labels match the finish schedule for the room
Product line, color name or code and sheen on the label match what the finish schedule shows for this room. 1 photo required