READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Polished concrete rough-in inspection checklist

Polished concrete 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 ASTM concrete floor test methods, manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The polishing crew lead assessing the slab, or the GC's superintendent walking the floor before grinding begins.
When: After the slab has cured and other trades are largely off the floor, before the first grind cut and before repairs get polished over.

Spec, mockup and products

- [ ] Approved mockup identified as the reference for the floor
  Mockup location and its approval record known, with the grits, densifier and guard used on it written down before production grinding starts.
  No photo required

- [ ] Grind and polish sequence written out from the spec and mockup
  Starting grit, each grit step, where the densifier goes in the sequence and the final grit listed per the spec and the approved mockup for every crew.
  No photo required

- [ ] Densifier, guard and filler labels match the approved submittal
  Container labels for the densifier, guard and joint filler where used show the product, color and lot the approved submittal lists.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Target gloss or finish class confirmed from the specification
  Specified gloss target or finish class, and the aggregate exposure class, confirmed from the spec and the approved mockup so the final walk has a target to read against.
  No photo required

Slab condition and flatness

- [ ] Slab flatness and levelness assessed before grinding
  Floor checked for flatness and low spots, high and low areas identified, exposure of aggregate agreed with the owner before the first cut sets the look.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Stains, trowel burns and surface marks mapped on the floor plan
  Existing stains, rust marks, trowel burns and embedded debris located and logged by area, so the owner sees what will show before the first cut.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Slab protection kept in place from placement onward
  Floor covered or kept clear of lift tires, pipe cutting oil, hydraulic leaks and rusting steel stored on it; no fresh staining under the protection.
  1 photo required

Repairs and crack treatment

- [ ] Cracks, spalls and joints repaired with matched material
  Cracks and spalls routed and filled, control joints filled where specified, repair material chosen to take polish and color close to the slab.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Joint filler timing set in the grind sequence
  Point in the sequence where joints get filled and shaved, and the slab age the filler needs, taken from the spec, the mockup and the filler manufacturer.
  No photo required

- [ ] Embedded pins, nails and anchors pulled or cut below grind depth
  Layout pins, shot pins, tie wire and abandoned anchors removed or cut below the planned cut depth so they do not tear pads or leave rust spots.
  No photo required

Surface cleaned and open

- [ ] Contaminants removed so the surface will accept densifier
  Curing compound, coatings, adhesive and stains removed, the surface clean and open so the densifier can penetrate uniformly.
  1 photo required

Dust and slurry control

- [ ] Wet grinding or vacuum extraction set up before the first pass
  Grinders run wet with slurry contained, or dry with the shroud connected to a vacuum extractor per the project's dust control plan; no dry grinding without extraction.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Slurry and dust disposal route agreed with the super
  Where slurry is squeegeed and collected, how drains and doorways are dammed, and how bagged dust leaves the building settled before grinding starts.
  No photo required
- [ ] Walls, frames and adjacent finishes protected from slurry
  Wall bases, door frames and finished surfaces next to the floor masked or shielded so slurry and edge grinder spray do not reach them.
  1 photo required