READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Retaining walls final inspection checklist

Retaining walls final inspection is where the punch list is either short or expensive. This checklist walks the finished work the way an owner or AHJ will see it: devices on, systems running, everything labeled. Each item gets the photo that closes it instead of reopening it. Work is commonly verified against the project geotechnical report and specifications, the applicable building code. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The GC's superintendent with the wall foreman, and the geotech or surveyor where the design calls for monitoring. When: After the wall is topped out, capped and the site is graded, before the area is released and any survey or settlement monitoring baseline is closed out.

Alignment and batter

- [ ] Wall face to line, grade and design batter
  Face sighted along its length for bulges or dishing, batter checked against the design, no course stepped out of alignment.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Survey or monitoring points read where required
  Any specified survey or movement-monitoring points established and baselined, readings recorded against the design tolerance.
  No photo required
- [ ] Top of wall elevations shot against the design at each station
  Surveyed top of wall and finished grade at the toe compared to the wall design, any section built taller than designed reported to the wall engineer.
  No photo required
- [ ] Wall ends and returns tied into the slope as detailed
  Each end turned back or stepped into grade the way the design shows, no exposed backfill or open gap where the wall meets the slope.
  1 photo required

Caps and top of wall

- [ ] Cap units set, adhered and aligned
  Caps continuous along the top, bonded with the specified adhesive, joints tight and top edge to a straight line.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Fence, rail and sign posts at the top kept clear of the geogrid
  Post and footing locations behind the top compared to the grid layout; any post driven or augered through the reinforced zone reported to the wall engineer.
  No photo required
- [ ] Loads above the wall match what the design assumed
  Parking, drive lanes, slopes and structures placed above the wall checked against the surcharge on the design, any change routed to the wall engineer.
  No photo required

Drainage and condition

- [ ] Drainage outlets located and flowing
  Outlets and cleanouts daylighting where shown, clear of graded fill, water able to leave the drainage zone.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Overall wall condition sound
  No cracked, spalled or displaced units, no separation at corners or steps, grading directing surface water away from the top.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Toe graded, stabilized and protected from erosion
  Ground in front of the wall finished to the grade that keeps the design embedment, seeded or armored, and no swale or downspout discharge cutting at the toe.
  1 photo required

Records and handover

- [ ] Wall engineer's final observation report on file
  The designer's or geotechnical engineer's letter or report covering the completed wall filed, with any open items they list tracked to closure.
  No photo required

- [ ] As-built wall layout with grid lengths and elevations recorded
  Record drawing shows the wall line, top and toe elevations, each grid layer's course and length and the drain outlets, for anyone digging behind the wall later.
  No photo required

- [ ] Product data and delivery tickets for units, grid and aggregate filed
  Submittals and tickets for the units, reinforcement, drainage aggregate and cap adhesive collected and matched to the approved wall design.
  No photo required