READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

# Tile and stone rough-in inspection checklist

Tile and stone 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 ANSI A108 / A118, TCNA guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The tile foreman checking each room ahead of the setters, or the GC's superintendent releasing wet areas floor by floor. When: After the substrate is in and cured, before any thinset goes down, while a flatness problem can still be corrected with a patch or float coat.

## Substrate readiness

- [ ] Substrate flatness checked for the tile size being set
  Straightedge run across the floor and walls, gaps measured against the flatness the tile size requires, high and low spots marked for correction.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Backer board or subfloor fastening and joints verified
  Fastener type and spacing per the board manufacturer, board joints staggered and set off the framing joints, subfloor solid with no springy spots underfoot.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Substrate clean of curing compound, dust and residue
  No curing compound, sealer, paint, drywall mud, oil or dust film left on the surface that would break the mortar bond; scraped or ground where found.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Slab cure and moisture results on file
  Slab age confirmed with the super and any moisture test the setting-material manufacturer requires recorded with its result before thinset goes down.
  No photo required
- [ ] Substrate cracks treated per the crack-isolation detail
  Where the slab or board shows cracks, each one routed, filled or bridged with the crack-isolation product the approved detail names.
  No photo required
- [ ] Room and substrate temperature within the setting range
  Thermometer reading of the room and the substrate photographed, within the application range on the thinset and grout instructions, space enclosed.
  1 photo required

## Setting-bed system

- [ ] Mortar bed or bonded system matches the specified assembly
  Setting method matches the specified assembly for the location, uncoupling or crack-isolation layer where called for, no mixing of incompatible products.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Thinset and grout bags match the approved submittal
  Bag labels photographed and matched to the submittal for product and type suited to the tile size and location, date codes within shelf life, bags stored dry.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Tile cartons checked for lot, shade and caliber
  Carton labels photographed showing one lot, shade and size code per area, or boxes pulled from several cartons and blended before setting.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Tile checked for warpage before the pattern is fixed
  On large-format or rectangular tile, sample pieces checked edge to edge on a flat surface for bow, result used to set the offset and joint width the tile manufacturer recommends.
  No photo required

## Layout

- [ ] Dry layout struck from control lines, cuts balanced
  Working lines snapped square to the space, tile dry-laid to balance perimeter cuts and carry the module across thresholds and into adjacent rooms.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Finished floor height worked out at doors and transitions
  Tile plus setting-bed build-up measured against adjacent floor finishes and door bottoms, so each transition meets the height the drawings show.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Layout placed around drains, fixtures and outlets
  Floor drains, fixture centerlines and outlet boxes land on a full tile or a centered cut in the dry layout; conflicts raised with the super before setting.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Pattern, joint width and start point confirmed
  Pattern, orientation, joint width and starting point checked against the finish plan and approved drawings with the super before the first tile is set.
  No photo required