

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

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

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