

Under-slab vapor retarder rough-in inspection checklist

Under-slab vapor retarder 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 vapor retarder standards, ACI concrete guidance, manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The sitework or concrete crew preparing the subgrade, or the GC's superintendent walking the pad before the retarder is rolled out. When: After the base is placed and compacted, before the vapor retarder is laid down and before any reinforcing is set on top of it.

Subgrade prepared

- ☐ Base fine-graded, compacted and to grade
Base compacted and graded smooth to the slab elevation, no soft spots or ruts, surface tight enough to support the sheet without bridging. 2 photos required

Surface clear of puncture hazards

- ☐ Sharp debris cleared before the sheet goes down
Rock, rebar offcuts, form stakes and sharp debris removed from the pad so the retarder can lie flat without being punctured. 1 photo required

Perimeter and depth

- ☐ Grade set so the retarder can turn up at the edge
Subgrade elevation at the perimeter set so the sheet reaches the slab edge or footing and can turn up to tie in, not trimmed short. 1 photo required