READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

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
- [ ] Sheet position in the slab section confirmed from the details
  Drawings read for where the retarder sits, directly under the slab or below a granular layer, and the base graded to suit that section.
  No photo required
- [ ] Top of base is the material the drawings call for
  Base stone or sand at the surface matches the drawings, with no oversized or angular rock left on top that would press through the sheet under load.
  1 photo 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
- [ ] Under-slab trenches backfilled flush with the base
  Plumbing and electrical trenches backfilled, compacted and dressed level with the pad, so the sheet does not sag into a trench line or drape over a spoil ridge.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Stub-ups at final location and braced before roll-out
  Pipe and conduit stub-ups set where the layouts show and held rigid, so the sheet can be booted tight and no stub-up gets moved after it is sealed.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Work the drawings put below the sheet finished first
  Any soil treatment, radon or vent piping, or under-slab insulation shown below the retarder complete and signed off, so no one lifts the sheet later.
  No 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
- [ ] Footing and form faces clean where the sheet turns up
  Perimeter footing, grade beam or edge form faces free of mud, fins and sharp edges, so the turn-up can be taped or adhered as the detail shows.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Edge termination detail read with the crew
  Detail for how the sheet ends at footings, grade beams and thickened edges reviewed with the crew before roll-out, including what it laps or tapes to.
  No photo required

Materials staged for roll-out

- [ ] Approved retarder submittal on site with the crew
  Approved product data and the manufacturer's installation instructions on hand at the pad, matching the product and class in the specification.
  No photo required
- [ ] Roll label shows the specified class and thickness
  Label on each roll photographed and compared with the spec and approved submittal: product, class and thickness as specified, not a generic poly sheet.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Seam tape, boots and mastic from the sheet's system
  Tape, pipe boots and mastic labels photographed and checked against the products the sheet manufacturer lists for use with this retarder.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Rolls stored and handled as the manufacturer directs
  Rolls kept wrapped, off the mud and out of the weather as the instructions say, with no crushed cores or torn outer wraps going onto the pad.
  1 photo required