READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Wood flooring final inspection checklist

Wood flooring 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 manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The GC's superintendent with the flooring lead, walking the finished floor before it's protected and turned over.
When: After the floor is installed, sanded and the finish coats are down and cured, before protection goes over it and before turnover walks.

Fastening and layout

- [ ] **Fastening or adhesive coverage sound** — 2 photos required
  Nailed or stapled floors fastened at the required spacing, glue-down floors solid underfoot with full trowel coverage, no hollow-sounding areas.
- [ ] **Board gaps and alignment consistent** — 2 photos required
  Boards tight with consistent seams, rows straight, no lippage between boards, end joints staggered per the layout.
- [ ] **Expansion gaps maintained at walls** — 1 photo required
  Perimeter expansion gap intact behind base and trim, floor not pinched tight at walls, thresholds or reducers allowing movement.
- [ ] **Installed floor moisture read before finishing** — 1 photo required
  Board moisture read across the installed floor and within the manufacturer's range before sanding and finish start, so the floor isn't sanded flat while still moving.

Sanding and finish

- [ ] **Sanded flat and clean before finish** — No photo required
  Surface sanded smooth and even with no drum marks, chatter or swirl, dust pulled before the coats go on.
- [ ] **Finish coats complete and even** — No photo required
  Specified number of finish coats applied evenly with no skips, holidays, bubbles or debris in the film, sheen consistent across the field.
- [ ] **No cupping or hollow spots** — 1 photo required
  Floor flat with no cupping, crowning or springy hollow areas, checked across the room under raking light.
- [ ] **Sealer and finish cans match the specified finish system** — 1 photo required
  Sealer, stain and finish labels on site match the specified system and sheen, all coats from one manufacturer's compatible line.
- [ ] **Edges and corners blended into the field** — 1 photo required
  Edger and corner work at walls, cabinets and thresholds free of scallops, sand-through and finish buildup, sheen matching the middle of the room.
- [ ] **Dry and recoat times logged for each coat** — No photo required
  Time each coat went down and when the next followed recorded, inside the recoat window and dry times on the finish manufacturer's data sheet.

Cure and handover

- [ ] Entries closed off with the foot-traffic time posted
  Sign at each entry giving when the last coat went down and when light foot traffic is allowed under the finish manufacturer's dry time, rooms closed to other trades.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Protection laid only after the cure, never taped to the finish
  Breathable covering the finish manufacturer allows laid once the finish can take it, tape on the covering seams only, none stuck to the new finish.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Full-cure date for rugs and furniture given to the super
  Date the finish reaches full cure, per the finish data sheet, passed to the super and owner so rugs, furniture and heavy loads wait until then.
  No photo required
- [ ] Wood floor care sheet in the turnover package
  Manufacturer's care sheet with the in-service humidity range, approved cleaner and recoat guidance included for the owner.
  No photo required