READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Wood flooring rough-in inspection checklist

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

Who runs it: The flooring installer or lead checking the room, with the GC's superintendent confirming the slab and building conditions are ready. When: After the substrate is prepped and the wood has sat in the space to acclimate, and before the first board is fastened or glued down.

Substrate

- [ ] Subfloor flat within tolerance
  Slab or subfloor checked with a straightedge over its length, high spots ground and low spots filled to the product's flatness tolerance.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Moisture tested on slab and wood
  Slab moisture measured by the specified method and the wood's moisture content read with a meter, both within the product's range and within the allowed spread of each other.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Wood meter set to the species before boards are read
  Pin or pinless meter set to the species or correction the meter maker gives, readings taken from boards pulled from several bundles, not just the top of one.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Subfloor panel stamp or slab matches the allowed substrate
  Panel grade stamp and thickness, or the slab, match a substrate the flooring manufacturer allows for this board and fastening method.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Crawlspace or basement below checked for moisture sources
  Where the floor sits over a crawlspace or basement, ground cover, ventilation or dehumidification checked so the underside isn't taking on moisture.
  No photo required

Materials and building conditions

- [ ] Carton labels match the approved species, grade and width
  Species, grade, board width and thickness, and construction (solid or engineered) on the carton labels match the approved submittal, lot numbers noted by room.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Fastening method confirmed for this substrate and grade level
  Nail-down, glue-down or floating chosen as the manufacturer's instructions allow for this substrate and for on, above or below grade, with the fastener schedule or trowel notch noted.
  No photo required
- [ ] Building closed in and wet work dried out before delivery
  Windows and exterior doors in, and drywall mud, plaster, paint and concrete dried out before the wood arrived, per the super's schedule.
  No photo required
- [ ] Room relative humidity read on install day
  Hygrometer reading of temperature and relative humidity at the start of installation, inside the in-service range the flooring manufacturer lists.
  1 photo required

Acclimation and layout

- [ ] Flooring acclimated to the space
  Wood stored in the conditioned room long enough to acclimate, HVAC running at service conditions, moisture re-read before install.
  1 photo required

- [ ] **Vapor retarder or underlayment installed**
  Specified vapor retarder or underlayment down and lapped where required, continuous under the field with no gaps.
  2 photos required

- [ ] **Expansion gap laid out at the perimeter**
  Starting line and perimeter expansion gap set to the product's requirement at walls and fixed obstructions before the first row is fastened.
  1 photo required

- [ ] **Boards racked out from several bundles before fastening**
  Rows dry-laid from several open bundles so color and lengths mix across the room, short ends staggered, defective or off-color boards culled.
  1 photo required

- [ ] **Board direction checked against the joists and finish plan**
  Boards run the direction the finish plan shows; over wood joists, running parallel only with the subfloor reinforcement the manufacturer calls for.
  No photo required

- [ ] **First rows checked for full fastening before the field runs**
  Nail-down: cleats seated at the tongue with no splits or raised heads; glue-down: a board lifted to show adhesive transfer; floating: joints fully engaged.
  1 photo required