

Prepunch Inspection Checklist

Contractor-Proven Review Before the Final Punch List

When to Use This:

The prepunch inspection is completed after most finishes are installed but before final inspections and the official punch list.

Purpose:

Catch major issues early—before the final walkthrough, when leverage is already beginning to shift.

This inspection helps you:

- Identify workmanship issues while crews are still on-site
- Reduce last-minute surprises
- Shorten the final punch list

Walls, Ceilings & Trim

- Drywall smooth with no cracks, nail pops, or waves
- Corners straight, clean, and uniform
- Trim installed securely and properly aligned
- Caulk applied neatly at joints and seams
- No visible gaps at baseboards or casing
- Closet shelving installed securely
- Attic access panel installed, aligned, and sealed

Doors & Windows

- Interior doors open and close smoothly
- Doors aligned, plumb, and properly latched
- Door hardware installed and functioning
- Windows open, close, and lock properly
- Window glass free of cracks or chips
- Screens installed where required
- Window trim complete and securely installed

Flooring

- Flooring installed per specifications
- No gaps, squeaks, or loose sections
- Transitions installed and secure
- Tile floors level with no cracked tiles
- Grout joints consistent and clean
- Carpet seams tight and clean
- Stairs finished neatly and securely

Cabinets & Countertops

- Cabinets securely mounted and properly aligned
- Cabinet doors and drawers open and close smoothly
- Hardware installed evenly and securely
- Countertops properly supported
- Seams clean, tight, and consistent
- No chips, cracks, or stains
- Backsplash installed neatly and completely

Plumbing Fixtures

- Toilets installed, secured, and flushing properly
- Sinks and faucets installed and operational
- No leaks at fixtures or connections
- Showers and tubs sealed properly
- Shower doors installed and aligned
- Water pressure consistent throughout the home

Electrical & Lighting

- All outlets and switches installed
- Cover plates installed and secured
- Light fixtures installed and operational
- Ceiling fans installed and balanced
- GFCI and AFCI outlets tested
- Exterior lighting installed and functioning

HVAC & Ventilation

- HVAC system operational
- Thermostat functioning properly
- Supply and return registers installed
- Bathroom exhaust fans operational
- No excessive airflow noise
- Airflow balanced between rooms

Paint & Finishes

- Paint coverage complete and even
- No drips, runs, or missed areas
- Touch-ups completed
- Stain and clear finishes consistent
- No overspray on trim or fixtures

Exterior (Visible at Prepunch Stage)

- Siding installed properly
- Trim painted or sealed
- Exterior doors aligned and sealed
- Exterior lights operational
- Hose bibs operational and leak-free
- Walkways and steps complete and safe

Prepunch Summary

- Major defects identified
- Corrections documented in writing
- Contractor notified of issues
- Ready to proceed to final punch list

Contractor-Proven Tip The prepunch inspection is where good projects become great ones. Fixing issues now saves time, money, and frustration at closing.