

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.