



ROUGH-IN INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Twenty-two checks to run before you call it in. A failed rough-in rarely costs you the correction. It costs you the trip back.

// BOXES AND ENCLOSURES

- ☐ 01 Box fill calculated, not guessed. Devices count as two, all grounds count as one, all clamps count as one.
- ☐ 02 Boxes flush with a combustible finished surface, or within the permitted setback in non-combustible.
- ☐ 03 Boxes securely fastened and independently supported. Not hanging on the cable.
- ☐ 04 Old work boxes only where legal. Cut-ins in new framing draw a comment.
- ☐ 05 Unused knockouts closed with a listed closure plate.

// CONDUCTORS

- ☐ 06 Free conductor length at every box, measured from where it leaves the sheath, extending outside the opening.
- ☐ 07 Cable sheath enters the box and is visible past the clamp.
- ☐ 08 Conductors identified correctly, with any re-identification permanent and at every visible point.
- ☐ 09 No damaged insulation. Check the cable, not just the terminations.

// SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

- ☐ 10 Cable secured within the required distance of every box.
- ☐ 11 Staples flat against the cable, not crushing it, not driven sideways.
- ☐ 12 Steel plate protection where a bored hole is close to the framing edge.
- ☐ 13 Listed grommets or bushings in every metal stud penetration, still in place.
- ☐ 14 Running boards or protection in accessible attic and crawl space areas.
- ☐ 15 Raceway supported at its own required intervals. EMT, PVC and flex are not the same.

// GROUNDING AND BONDING

- ☐ 16 Equipment grounding conductor present and continuous at every box and device.
- ☐ 17 Grounds pigtailed. The path cannot depend on the device staying in place.
- ☐ 18 Metal boxes bonded with a listed means.
- ☐ 19 Grounding electrode system roughed and accessible. Rods driven, CEE stubbed and tagged.

// LAYOUT AND PROTECTION DEVICES

- ☐ 20 GFCI and AFCI locations checked against the edition your AHJ enforces, not the one you learned.
- ☐ 21 Receptacle spacing walked with a tape. Countertop and island rules applied separately.
- ☐ 22 Panel schedule started, legible, describing the load rather than the room.



THE ORDER TO WALK IT

Do not walk the list top to bottom. Walk it by location, the way the inspector will move.

1. Panel first

Grounding, bonding, identification, schedule, free length.

2. Follow each homerun

Support intervals, plate protection, staple condition, bored holes.

3. Every box in sequence

Fill, depth, sheath entry, free length, ground termination.

4. The layout

Tape on receptacle spacing, then protection scheme room by room.

5. Look up

Attic, crawl space, anywhere cable crosses framing above head height.

// PHOTOGRAPH BEFORE DRYWALL

- Every wall with a homerun, with a tape or stud visible for scale.
- The panel with the door off and the schedule visible.
- Any unusual routing, junction or improvised protection.
- Grounding electrode connections before they are covered.

If you do fail, fix the items they did not cite too.

Inspectors frequently stop writing once they have found enough to fail you. The uncited version of the same problem is still in the wall four studs down, and the re-inspection is when it gets found.

// SCAN IT BEFORE YOU CALL IT IN

PHOTOGRAPH A ROUGH-IN. GET LIKELY ISSUES FLAGGED.

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