# Drywall Contractor Photo Checklist

Drywall work — board hanging, taping, mudding, and finishing — covers up nearly every other trade on the job. Once paint goes on, board thickness, fastener patterns, tape bedding, and corner bead installation are impossible to verify. When a GC disputes scope, a homeowner claims cracking was caused by your work, or a finish coat fails inspection, the question is always the same: **can you prove the framing was inspection-ready, the board was hung correctly, and each coat was applied to spec?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots.

**THE 7 PHASES**
## Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

**01** **PHASE**
## Pre-Hang Site Assessment

- ☐ Framing inspection approval on-site
- ☐ Mechanical rough-in complete — confirmed
- ☐ Moisture or mold issues noted pre-work
- ☐ Framing plumb & straight — documented
- ☐ Insulation installed (where required)
- ☐ Permit & approved scope on-site
- ☐ All blocking in place before hang
- ☐ Fire blocking at penetrations verified
- ☐ Homeowner pre-existing conditions noted

**02** **PHASE**
## Board Delivery & Layout

- ☐ Board brand, type & thickness labeled
- ☐ Board quantity & delivery condition
- ☐ Board lifts or jacks in use
- ☐ Moisture-resistant board in wet areas
- ☐ Layout plan — direction & stagger
- ☐ Attic or crawlspace access maintained
- ☐ Type X board in fire-rated assemblies
- ☐ Ceiling board hung first — wide shot
- ☐ Special board (abuse-resistant) noted

**03** **PHASE**
## Hanging — Ceilings

- ☐ Ceiling board perpendicular to joists
- ☐ Butt joints staggered — no stacking
- ☐ Blocking at all unsupported edges
- ☐ Screw spacing — field & edge documented
- ☐ End joints land on framing members
- ☐ Recessed light / vent box cutouts clean
- ☐ Screws set — not over-driven or popped
- ☐ Adhesive applied (if used)
- ☐ Ceiling hang complete — wide shot

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## 04 PHASE
## Hanging — Walls

- ☐ Board hung horizontally or vertically noted
- ☐ Cutouts for outlets & switches clean
- ☐ Door & window jamb depth confirmed
- ☐ Screw spacing — field & edge documented
- ☐ Corner bead type — metal or vinyl
- ☐ Moisture board at all wet wall locations
- ☐ No floating vertical joints at corners
- ☐ Control joint locations per spec
- ☐ Wall hang complete — wide shot per room

## 05 PHASE
## Taping & Mud Coats

- ☐ Paper tape embedded — no bubbles
- ☐ First coat — butt joints & fasteners
- ☐ Texture — type & pattern documented
- ☐ Mesh tape (where used) — type & location
- ☐ Second coat — feathered & widened
- ☐ Corner bead — straightness confirmed
- ☐ Compound type — setting or drying noted
- ☐ Finish coat — skim or level 5 noted
- ☐ All coats — progression photos per room

## 06 PHASE
## Finishing & Level of Finish

- ☐ Level of finish (L1–L5) specified & confirmed
- ☐ Sanding — grit & method documented
- ☐ Reveals at windows & doors consistent
- ☐ Level 4 — smooth, paint-ready documented
- ☐ No tool marks, ridges, or trowel lines
- ☐ Touch-up mud & sand — before & after
- ☐ Level 5 — skim coat fully applied
- ☐ Corner bead plumb & tight to board
- ☐ Final finish — wide shot per room

## 07 PHASE
## Final Inspection & Closeout

- ☐ Permit card & inspection sticker
- ☐ No cracks at butt joints
- ☐ GC or owner walkthrough documented
- ☐ Inspector approval documented
- ☐ Fire-rated assembly details confirmed
- ☐ Punch list — before & after photos
- ☐ All fasteners dimpled — none popped
- ☐ Cleanup complete — no debris
- ☐ As-built notes on deviations from plan

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**HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD**

## Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow

### 01  Photograph the Framing Before Hanging Any Board

Framing plumb, blocking, and rough-in completion are all invisible once board goes up. These shots prove the substrate was correct — protecting you from callback disputes caused by framing or mechanical issues that were never your responsibility.

### 02  Capture Screw Patterns Before Tape & Mud Cover Them

Field and edge screw spacing, dimple depth, and butt joint placement disappear under the first coat of mud. A close-up shot of each wall and ceiling proves your fastening was correct.

### 03  Document Each Coat Progression in Every Room

A photo of each coat — first, second, and finish — in every room creates a time-stamped record of your process. This is your defense against claims that coats were skipped or rushed.

### 04  Wide Shot Before and After Every Room

A before-hang and after-finish pair for each room documents your complete scope and shows exactly what you delivered — the clearest possible evidence in any GC or homeowner dispute.

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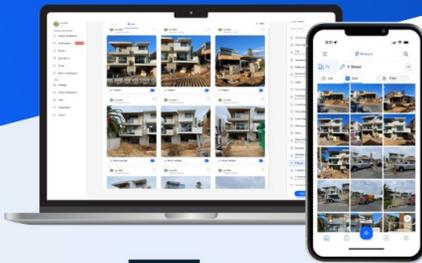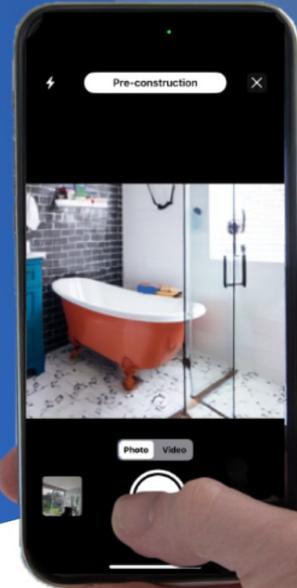Download on the App Store    ANDROID APP ON Google play

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