Framing Contractor Photo Checklist

Framing defines the structure of every building — and once drywall goes up, the stud spacing, header sizes, shear nailing, and blocking all become invisible. When a structural engineer reviews the job, an inspector asks questions, or a GC disputes scope, the question is always the same: **can you prove the framing was built to plan, nailed to spec, and passed inspection?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots to capture on every frame.

THE 7 PHASES
Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

01 PHASE Pre-Frame Site Assessment

- ☐ Foundation or slab condition documented
- ☐ Foundation level — high/low points noted
- ☐ Engineered lumber (LVL/PSL) labels
- ☐ Sill plate anchor bolt spacing & size
- ☐ Approved framing plans on-site
- ☐ Existing structure condition noted
- ☐ Sill plate pressure-treated confirmed
- ☐ Material delivery — lumber grade & size
- ☐ Utility stub-up locations documented

02 PHASE Floor Framing

- ☐ Beam size & bearing support
- ☐ Blocking at bearing points
- ☐ Subfloor fastener pattern
- ☐ Floor joist size, spacing & direction
- ☐ Rim joist installation
- ☐ Subfloor adhesive applied
- ☐ Joist hanger type & nailing
- ☐ Subfloor — material & thickness
- ☐ Floor flat — wide shot before walls

03 PHASE Wall Framing

- ☐ Plate size & layout per plan
- ☐ Double top plate — lap & nailing
- ☐ King, jack & cripple stud count
- ☐ Stud size & spacing — 16" or 24" OC
- ☐ Window & door rough opening sizes
- ☐ Shear wall panel location & nailing
- ☐ Corner framing configuration
- ☐ Header size at each opening
- ☐ Walls plumb & aligned — wide shot

04 PHASE
Roof Framing

- [ ] Rafter size & spacing per plan
- [ ] Rafter seat cut — plumb & level
- [ ] Hip, valley & jack rafter layout
- [ ] Ridge board or ridge beam size
- [ ] Collar ties or rafter ties installed
- [ ] Truss installation & bracing (if used)
- [ ] Ridge beam support post & connection
- [ ] Ceiling joist size & direction
- [ ] Roof framing complete — wide shot

05 PHASE
Shear & Structural Connections

- [ ] Shear panel type & thickness labeled
- [ ] Anchor bolt connections at plate
- [ ] Drag strut blocking & nailing
- [ ] Shear nailing pattern — nail size & spacing
- [ ] Simpson or structural connector type
- [ ] Diaphragm blocking at shear panels
- [ ] Hold-down hardware — size & location
- [ ] Moment frame or post base hardware
- [ ] All structural hardware — connection shots

06 PHASE
Blocking & Backing

- [ ] Backing for cabinets — height documented
- [ ] Fire blocking at all penetrations
- [ ] Ceiling backing for heavy fixtures
- [ ] Backing for grab bars — height & material
- [ ] Fire blocking at floor-wall intersections
- [ ] Backing at exterior ledger connections
- [ ] Backing for TV mounts noted
- [ ] Blocking at stair stringers
- [ ] All blocking — before drywall covers it

07 PHASE
Framing Inspection & Closeout

- [ ] Permit card on-site
- [ ] Notch & hole limits not exceeded
- [ ] Wide shot — all framing complete
- [ ] Framing inspection approval documented
- [ ] Nail plates on all penetrations
- [ ] GC or owner walkthrough documented
- [ ] All headers & posts per plan
- [ ] Stairway framing — rise & run
- [ ] As-built notes on any plan deviations

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HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD

Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow

01 **Photograph Shear Nailing Before Sheathing Goes Over It**
Shear panel nailing pattern, nail size, and edge distance are invisible once the next layer goes on. These shots are your only defense if a structural issue arises later.

02 **Capture Every Structural Connector**
Hold-downs, post bases, rafter ties, and joist hangers are required by the structural plans. Document each one before it is covered by insulation, drywall, or finish material.

03 **Document All Blocking Before Drywall**
Cabinet backing, grab bar blocking, and fire blocking disappear behind drywall immediately. These are the shots that prevent costly callbacks and disputed change orders.

04 **Wide Shot at Every Phase Completion**
Floor, walls, and roof framing each deserve a wide-angle completion shot. These images document your scope clearly for the GC, lender, and inspector.

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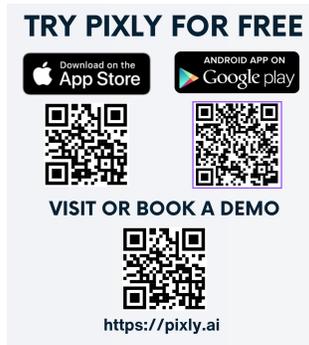
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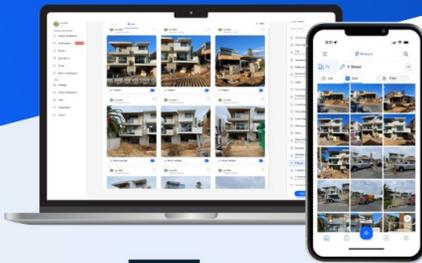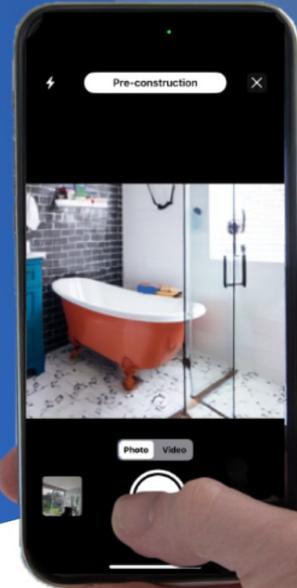
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