

# Handyman Photo Checklist

Handyman work covers dozens of different tasks on a single day — repairs, installations, maintenance, and minor renovations — often in occupied homes where pre-existing conditions are everywhere. When a homeowner disputes whether the damage was there before you arrived, questions the quality of a repair, or denies approving extra scope, the question is always the same: **can you prove what the condition was before you touched it, exactly what you did, and that the work was completed as agreed?** This guide gives every handyman the exact shots to capture on every job, every day.

## THE 7 PHASES

### Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

#### 01 PHASE Pre-Work Site Assessment

- Overall work area — wide shot on arrival
- Each task location — condition before work
- Pre-existing damage near work area
- Water stains, cracks, or rot noted
- Homeowner present — agreed scope confirmed
- Approved work order or scope on-site
- Adjacent surfaces to protect noted
- Shutoff locations confirmed (if plumbing)
- Electrical panel location confirmed

#### 02 PHASE Carpentry & Repairs

- Damaged area — wide & close-up before
- Rot, water damage, or pest damage noted
- Repair material — type & size labeled
- Existing fasteners or hardware removed
- New material cut & fit — before install
- Fastener type & pattern documented
- Repair complete — close-up detail shot
- Paint or finish applied — product noted
- Repair complete — wide shot in context

#### 03 PHASE Plumbing Repairs & Installations

- Existing fixture — condition before work
- Shutoff valve location & condition
- Water supply off — confirmed in photo
- Old fixture or fitting removed
- Pipe condition exposed — leaks or corrosion
- New part or fixture — label in frame
- Connection type — threaded, compression, PEX
- Water turned on — no leaks confirmed
- Fixture operational — tested & documented



## 04 PHASE Doors, Windows & Hardware

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door or window — condition before work     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinge, latch, or hardware condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Strike plate alignment documented     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gap or clearance issue — measured in frame | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment or repair method noted   | <input type="checkbox"/> New hardware — brand & finish labeled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door or window operates correctly          | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather-stripping condition noted   | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed installation — wide shot    |

## 05 PHASE Drywall, Patching & Painting

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged area — size & cause noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-existing paint color documented | <input type="checkbox"/> Patch material — type & brand        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patch applied — before sanding    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patch sanded — smooth & feathered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Primer applied to patch              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint product & color code noted  | <input type="checkbox"/> Touch-up or repaint complete        | <input type="checkbox"/> Finished area — wide shot in context |

## 06 PHASE Outdoor & General Maintenance

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutter condition before cleaning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Gutter debris — amount noted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Downspout flow confirmed after cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence or gate condition before repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deck or porch condition documented | <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk condition at windows & doors      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New caulk applied — product noted     | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior light or outlet condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed maintenance — wide shot       |

## 07 PHASE Final Walkthrough & Closeout

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All completed tasks — individual shots     | <input type="checkbox"/> Work area clean — no debris left          | <input type="checkbox"/> All shutoffs returned to original position |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Touched surfaces — paint or finish matched | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware or fixtures operational — tested | <input type="checkbox"/> Any scope additions noted & photographed   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unused materials — returned or noted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Client walkthrough — each task shown      | <input type="checkbox"/> Signed work order or approval documented   |

**HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD****Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow****01 Photograph Every Area Before You Touch It**

The most important shot a handyman can take is the condition of each work area on arrival — before tools come out. Pre-existing scratches, stains, cracks, and damage are the most common source of disputes. A time-stamped photo taken the moment you walk in is the only evidence that a condition existed before your visit.

**02 Document the Agreed Scope Before Starting Any Task**

A photo of the written work order, text approval, or scope discussed with the homeowner — taken at the start of the job — proves what was agreed. When a client claims they never approved a task or disputes an add-on, this shot is your record of exactly what the job was supposed to include.

**03 Capture Every Repair Before and After**

A close-up before shot showing the defect, followed by a close-up after shot showing the completed repair, documents your workmanship on every single task. These pairs are your portfolio, your protection, and your proof of completion all in one.

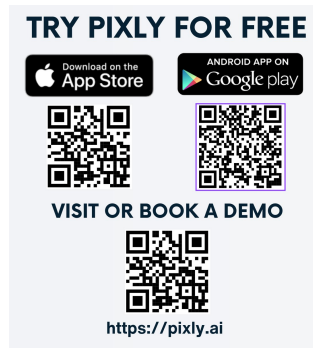
**04 End Every Job with a Wide Shot of Each Completed Area**

A final wide shot of every area you worked in — taken before you pack up — shows the space clean, the work complete, and everything in order. This is the image that closes the job and protects you from any after-the-fact damage claims.

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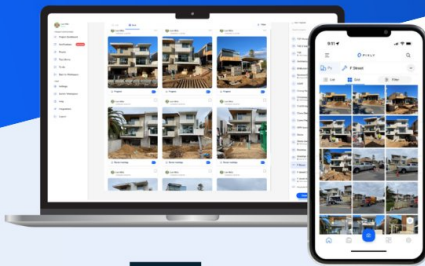
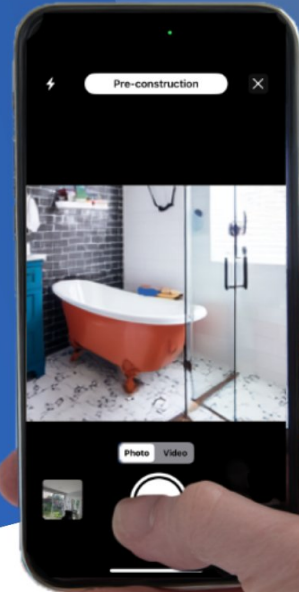
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### STOP SKETCHY DISPUTES

Time stamped, location stamped records of pre-construction conditions, progress and work completed.



### STOP WORK PHOTO CHAOS

Never text another work photo. Never upload to another disorganized drive. Never lose photos in between family pictures.



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