

# Tile & Flooring Photo Checklist

Tile and flooring installations hide critical layers — substrate preparation, waterproofing, mortar coverage, and transition details — beneath the finished surface. When a homeowner disputes a crack, a grout failure, or a hollow tile, the question is always the same: **can you prove the substrate was prepared correctly, the mortar coverage was adequate, and the installation met industry standards?** This guide covers every phase, from substrate prep to final seal.

## THE 8 PHASES

### Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

#### 01 PHASE Pre-Installation Site Assessment

- Existing floor condition — wide shot
- Subfloor material & condition noted
- Moisture test results documented
- Subfloor deflection — L/360 confirmed
- Pre-existing cracks or damage noted
- Transition locations & heights measured
- Floor plan with installation direction
- Material delivery — product & quantity
- Permit & approved scope on-site

#### 02 PHASE Subfloor Preparation

- Existing flooring removed — condition exposed
- Subfloor fastening — squeaks eliminated
- High spots ground down — documented
- Low spots filled — self-leveler used
- Self-leveler — pour depth & coverage
- Crack isolation membrane installed
- Plywood underlayment — thickness & fastening
- Cement board — fastener spacing
- Subfloor flat & clean — wide shot

#### 03 PHASE Waterproofing — Wet Areas

- Waterproofing product — label photographed
- First coat applied — full coverage shot
- Second coat — perpendicular direction
- Corners & transitions reinforced
- Schluter or tile-edge strips at transitions
- Shower pan / drain area — clamping
- Flood test — 24-hour hold photo
- Penetrations sealed — pipes & drains
- All waterproofing before tile goes in



## 04 PHASE Layout & Setting

- Layout lines snapped — wide shot
- Centerline & starting point documented
- Tile orientation & pattern confirmed
- Thinset type — label photographed
- Trowel size & notch type noted
- Back-buttering technique documented
- Thinset coverage on tile back — >80%
- Grout joint width — spacers in place
- First field tiles set — wide shot

## 05 PHASE Tile Installation

- Large format tile — lippage checked
- Tile cuts at perimeter — clean edge
- Niche — waterproofed & tiled
- Floor-to-wall transition handled
- Exterior tile — frost-rated confirmed
- Heating mat under tile (if applicable)
- Tile slope to drain — 1/4" per foot
- All tiles set — before grout wide shot
- Tiles tapped — hollow check noted

## 06 PHASE Grouting & Finishing

- Grout product & color — label shot
- Joint width matches grout specification
- Grout float technique — full joints
- Grout haze cleaned at correct time
- Caulk at all change-of-plane joints
- Expansion joints — location & material
- Grout sealed — product & coverage
- Transition strips — secured & level
- Completed floor — wide & detail shots

## 07 PHASE Hardwood, LVP & Laminate

- Acclimation period — start & end photos
- Moisture readings before installation
- Underlayment type & installation
- Expansion gap at all perimeter walls
- Stagger pattern — min 6" end joints
- Direction of installation documented
- Nailers or staplers — fastener spacing
- Transitions at doorways & thresholds
- Completed floor — wide shot all areas

## 08 PHASE Final Inspection & Closeout

- Grout & caulk — fully cured
- Sealer applied — product documented
- All tiles tapped — no hollow spots
- Transitions & thresholds secured
- Cleanup complete — no haze or residue
- Client walkthrough documented
- Product data sheets photographed
- Warranty documentation
- Final wide shots — all areas complete

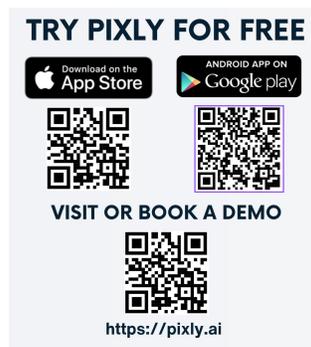


**HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD****Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow**

- 01 Photograph Thinset Coverage Before Every Tile is Set**  
Industry standard requires 80% thinset coverage on the back of each tile — 95% in wet areas. Pull a freshly set tile and photograph the mortar transfer to prove coverage.
- 02 Document the Waterproofing Flood Test**  
Photograph the water level in the shower pan at the start and 24 hours later with a timestamp. This single image is your best protection against future leak attribution disputes.
- 03 Capture Layout Lines Before the First Tile Goes Down**  
A photo of your centerline, working lines, and starting tile position proves that your layout was planned — not improvised — if a pattern alignment dispute arises during the job.
- 04 Wide Shot Before Grout and After Seal**  
A before-grout shot shows a perfect installation, and an after-seal shot shows the finished product. These two images bracket your work and document the full transformation.

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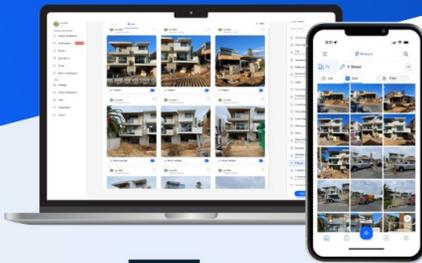
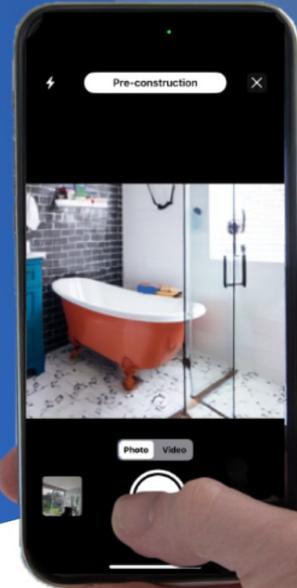
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### STOP SKETCHY DISPUTES

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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