Home inspector exam-day checklist

A practical checklist for the week before the national home inspector exam, the day of the test, and the hours after. Confirm every logistical item with your testing vendor and the official exam site; those rules can change.

One week out

- ☐ Confirm your appointment date, time, time zone and whether you are testing at a center or with a remote proctor.
- ☐ Read the current candidate instructions from the exam owner and the testing vendor, including identification, personal items, breaks and reschedule rules.
- ☐ Check the route, parking, or, for remote testing, your computer, camera, lighting and internet against the vendor's requirements. Do a system check if one is offered.
- ☐ Stop starting brand-new systems. Use remaining study time on your missed-concept list, mixed questions and, if you have them, a final timed mock.
- ☐ Recheck any state application deadlines that depend on exam results, using the state licensing pages and the board itself.
- ☐ Plan sleep, meals and a backup alarm. A long exam rewards a steady routine more than a late night of new reading.

Forty-eight hours out

- ☐ Pack or set out the identification the vendor requires (usually a valid government photo ID that matches your registration name). If two forms are required, pack both.
- ☐ Print or save your confirmation email or appointment number, plus the test-center address or remote-testing login steps.
- ☐ Confirm what you may bring into the room. Many sessions do not allow personal notes, books or a calculator. Follow the instructions you were sent, not a general rumor.
- ☐ If you need an approved accommodation, confirm that the arrangement is in place.
- ☐ Lay out comfortable layers. Testing rooms are often cool.

The night before

- ☐ Light review only: flip through your missed-concept list and the glossary for terms that still feel shaky. Do not try to learn a new system from scratch.
- ☐ Set two alarms. Charge your phone, and, for remote testing, your computer and a backup mouse or camera if you use one.
- ☐ Prepare breakfast or a snack you already know sits well. Avoid a first-time experiment on exam morning.
- ☐ Go to bed at a reasonable hour. A little leftover anxiety is normal; another hour of cramming rarely helps.

Exam morning and during the test

- ☐ Eat, hydrate, and leave earlier than you think you need, or log in early for a remote session.
- ☐ Use the restroom before you are seated. Note the break rules so a pause does not surprise you.
- ☐ The exam is about 200 multiple-choice questions in about 4 hours, including some unscored pretest items you cannot identify. Treat every item seriously.
- ☐ Pace yourself: a simple target is about one minute per question, with time in reserve to review flagged items. If a question stalls you, choose a flag, move on, and come back.
- ☐ Read the last line of the stem carefully. Many items ask for the *best* next step, the *most likely* concern, or what an inspector *should report*, which is not always the same as a code citation.
- ☐ If there is no penalty for guessing, do not leave a blank. Change an answer only when you find a clear reason, not because the session feels long.

After you finish

- ☐ Follow the candidate rules about discussing specific items. Do not post or share question wording.
- ☐ Note how and when results are released, and how a retake wait period works, from the official sources — not from a forum memory.
- ☐ If you passed, return to your state board's application steps. If you did not, wait for the official retake rules, then study from a fresh missed-topic list rather than repeating the whole calendar at the same pace.

Printable companions: the 30-day study plan and the licensing steps checklist.

Logistics and exam policies are set by the exam owner and its vendor and can change. This list is a study aid, not official instructions, and it does not guarantee a result.

This InspectExam resource is for exam study only. It is not a substitute for the official exam content outline, candidate handbook, building codes, or any association standard of practice. Always verify current rules with the exam owner, your testing vendor, and your state board. No guarantee of passing.