

HOMEOWNER BASEMENT FINISH CHECKLIST

FRAMING

- Minimum of R-18 insulation in basement foundation walls
- Bottom plates of basement walls shall be treated material or approved engineered material
- Minimum of 6'8" headroom for stairways and basement ceiling height
- Doors shall not swing over stairway
- Minimum landing size of 36" x 36" at bottom of stairway
- Egress window required in all bedrooms
- Pre-construction inspection of foundation walls
- One smoke detector in each bedroom and a smoke detector within 15 ft of bedroom door exterior
- Ladder in egress window well if greater than 44" from bottom of window well to top

ELECTRICAL

- Minimum wall spacing (no farther than 6' to a receptacle outlet from any point along the wall (maximum of 12' apart)
- Required smoke detectors in bedrooms & the area immediately adjacent (maximum 15' from bedroom door)
- One CO detector for each level (can use a combo smoke/CO outside the bedroom)
- A dedicated 20A branch circuit to the bathroom
- Proper NM cable (Romex) supporting & positioning required (minimum of 1 ¼" to stud face, if more than (2) flat cables are "tacked" then utilize the correct type of staple or place "backing" between studs)
- Receptacle outlets in dwellings are required to be type "TR" tamper resistant
- Correct circuit breaker sizing per cable wire size (14 AWG – 15A, 12 AWG – 20A)
- AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter) protection required for most areas (except bathroom & unfinished portion of basement)
- Ground fault protection (GFCI) receptacle outlet in bathrooms & unfinished portions of basement
- Install NM cable (Romex) staple within 8" of boxes without a cable clamp (typical nail on box & within 12" of boxes with a cable connector - panel side)

PLUMBING & MECHANICAL

- Mechanical rooms shall have a minimum square footage of 40 square feet. Combustion air requirements will need to be reviewed for furnace and water heater when finishing the basement.
- Each bedroom shall have supply and return air
- Basement main area shall have a return
- Bathroom exhaust piping shall be metallic if permanently covered