



Basement Inspection Check List

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1. Preliminary Safety and Setup

Wear gloves, mask, and protective eyewear
Ensure proper lighting using a flashlight or work light
Carry moisture meter, camera, and notepad
Check for gas smells or chemical odors before entry
Use portable ventilation fan if air is stagnant or damp
Check for pests or rodents before starting detailed inspection

Note

2. Basement Floor Inspection

Look for visible cracks in the concrete slab or floor tiles
Check for damp or wet spots along floor edges and joints
Inspect for signs of efflorescence (white powdery residue)
Test dampness using a moisture meter in multiple floor spots
Check for signs of mold or mildew on floor surfaces
Note any floor slopes toward the walls or central area

3. Basement Wall Inspection (Interior Foundation Walls)

Check for horizontal, vertical, or step cracks
Identify discoloration or water stains on block or poured walls
Inspect for bulging or bowing sections
Look for mold, mildew, or musty smells along the wall base
Check for spalling (flaking or chipping) in concrete
Test wall dampness with moisture meter
Signs of termite damage (mud tubes or wood residue near walls)

4. Basement Ceiling and Structural Elements

Inspect joists and beams for water stains or rot
Look for rusted fasteners, nails, or metal brackets
Check insulation for dampness, sagging, or mold growth
Inspect pipe penetrations and electrical entry points for gaps or stains
Look for condensation buildup around HVAC ducts and cold water pipes

5. Water Intrusion Points and Plumbing Fixtures

Check around sump pump pit for signs of overflow or malfunction
Ensure sump pump activates and drains properly during a test
Inspect around floor drains for blockage or poor flow
Check water meter, valves, and supply lines for leaks or sweating
Inspect all exposed plumbing joints and connections for signs of drips
Check around washer hookups and water heater for pooling or corrosion

Need More Info?

- Read more about **Basement Humidity** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/humidity/>
- Read more about **Basement Leaking** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/leaking/>
- Read more about **Basement Waterproofing** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/waterproofing/>



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6. Windows, Vents, and Basement Doors

Inspect basement windows for broken seals or moisture between panes
Check window wells for debris, pooling, or improper drainage
Ensure vents are unobstructed and allow airflow
Inspect door thresholds and weather stripping for water trails
Check for light or air gaps around exterior door frames

Note

7. Exterior Foundation Surroundings (from Inside View)

Check corners where floor meets wall for water trails or dampness
Inspect footing area for seepage after rain
Look for pipe entry points (like sewer or water lines) and ensure sealed
Inspect cold joints (between wall and floor slab) for leaks

8. Exterior Drainage and Grading Clues

Review drainage slope outside walls during or after rain
Identify if water pools against basement walls
Note location and condition of downspouts near basement entry
Check outside basement vents or window wells from inside view

9. Basement Odor and Air Quality

Note any musty, sour, or earthy odors
Use a humidity gauge to check if relative humidity exceeds 60%
Inspect for condensation on windows, walls, or pipes
Ensure dehumidifier is present and functional (if needed)

10. Previous Repairs, Coatings, and Waterproofing

Inspect walls for interior waterproof coatings peeling or bubbling
Check if crack injections or wall anchors are properly sealed
Note locations of previous patches or epoxy coatings
Check for interior drainage channels or baseboard systems
Look for installed vapor barriers verify condition and coverage

11. Recommendations and Next Steps

Identify minor DIY issues such as caulking gaps or cleaning drains
Mark areas that need urgent professional attention
List maintenance tasks such as cleaning window wells or checking sump
Take photos and document all signs of damage, moisture, or deterioration
Schedule a professional inspection if unsure about structural integrity

Need More Info?

- Read more about **Basement flooding** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/flooding/>
- Read more about **Basement mold** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/mold/>
- Read more about **Basement Musty Smell** - <https://aqviz.com/basement/musty-smell/>

