



Dickson Development Corporation
A Tradition of Innovative Quality Construction

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Building Success 101

Q: Am I liable for accidents that occur during the construction of my house?

A: In most cases, no. Builders and their subcontractors carry liability and worker's compensation insurance against job site accidents. In addition, they are regulated by the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), as well as their insurers, to maintain a safe workplace, eliminate hazards, and train their workers in safe work habits and emergency response. Make sure that you follow your builder's safety guidelines and procedures should you visit the job site.

Punch List: Helping Insure Homeowner Satisfaction

The idea of a "punch list" may not sound very appealing at first, but it's really an invaluable tool for making sure our homes meet the standards and expectations of our clients. A punch list -- industry slang for a short checklist of items that need to be completed, repaired, or replaced -- is also an effective communication tool with our trade partners and our clients. It acts as a quick and easy reference to the status of the project and its state of readiness.

Most commonly, punch lists are used as the house nears completion. Increasingly, one is created and addressed internally (by our staff, without the client present), and a second one developed as a homeowner and one of our associates walk through a house just before completion. In either case, the punch list typically contains minor items that can be addressed quickly and easily.

Conducting an internal inspection and addressing punch list items before the final client walk-through has proven to boost our clients' overall satisfaction.

Lesser known (but common among the most professional builders) are the punch lists that are produced at almost every phase of the building process. This enables us to communicate and collaborate with our product suppliers and subcontractors regarding the quality and status of their work in progress. Like those created during a final walk-through with a client, punch lists during construction ensure that each stage of work is complete and ready for the next phase. We can then call for an inspection by the local building department or schedule the next wave of trade partners and material deliveries to start the next stage of work. This formal process is key to managing the thousands of details in building a new home or renovation of an existing home, helping us stay on schedule and on budget.

Still, no matter how many times we conduct inspections and develop punch lists, no house is perfect. There are bound to be some things that clients notice and identify to us during a final walk-through; in addition, there may be items we shall point out as already on the punch list, and explain the policies and procedures in place for taking care of everything on the punch list in a timely manner.

Depending on the punch list, we may try to schedule the necessary labor to address every item on the same day, rather than over several days, out of respect for a client's time and busy schedule.

With a reliable and consistent punch list system in place, we are able to deliver a completed house that regularly meets or exceeds the expectations of our clients.

When we communicate effectively with our clients, subcontractors, and materials suppliers throughout the process, punch lists are typically short and easy to complete, helping us deliver the most positive overall experience and best possible client experience.

Warm regards,

Richard

Richard Dickson
**Dickson Development
Corporation**
666 Plainsboro Road, Suite 1300
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
(609) 799 0220 - phone



info@dicksondevelopment.com
www.dicksondevelopment.com

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