# ICC Residential Building Inspector (B1) exam study checklist

Built from the ICC Residential Building Inspector (B1) content outline, outline PDF carries no revision date (read 17 Oct 2026 on ICC's site).
B1 exam: 60 multiple-choice questions in 120 minutes, open book (your own bound IRC), 2021 or 2024 code cycle.

One line per thing to be able to do, grouped under the seven areas ICC lists for the B1. Wall construction carries the most weight. The exam is open book, so for each line also practice finding the answer in your own IRC. Tick a line when you can do both.

## Code Administration

- ☐ Say what a permit covers and when inspections happen.
- ☐ Describe an inspector's duties, and what is outside them.
- ☐ Find the administrative provisions in your code book quickly.

## Building Planning

- ☐ Find the design loads and climate criteria for a site in your code book.
- ☐ Find the rules for room size, ceiling height, light and ventilation.
- ☐ Say which rooms need an emergency escape opening.
- ☐ Tell a net clear opening from a rough opening.

## Footings and Foundations

- ☐ Read soil and bearing information and say how it affects a footing.
- ☐ Size and place a footing from the code tables.
- ☐ Tell a footing from a foundation wall and say what each is for.
- ☐ Describe foundation drainage and damp-proofing.
- ☐ Say how frost depth affects a footing.

## Floor Construction

- ☐ Read a joist span table, and say what changes the answer.
- ☐ Say what notching and boring a joist may and may not do.
- ☐ Describe band joists, girders, posts and subfloor.
- ☐ Name the connections that hold a floor to a wall and to a foundation.

## Wall Construction and Coverings

- ☐ Tell a bearing wall from a non-bearing wall.
- ☐ Size a wall header, and tell a king stud from a jack stud.
- ☐ Describe braced wall panels and why they are placed where they are.
- ☐ Explain fireblocking and where it goes, and how it differs from draftstopping.
- ☐ Describe exterior coverings and the flashing behind them.
- ☐ Tell step flashing from counterflashing.
- ☐ Find the wall framing tables and read them without a mistake.

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## Roof/Ceiling Construction

- ☐ Read rafter and ceiling joist span tables.
- ☐ Tell rafter ties from collar ties, and say what each one does.
- ☐ Tell a ridge board from a ridge beam.
- ☐ Work out roof pitch and what it changes.
- ☐ Describe roof coverings, flashing and attic ventilation.

## Public Safety and Special Construction

- ☐ Describe the means of egress from a bedroom to the outside.
- ☐ Check a stair: riser, tread, winders, headroom and landings, using the values in your book.
- ☐ Tell a guard from a handrail, and say where each is needed.
- ☐ Say where smoke and carbon monoxide alarms go.
- ☐ Describe the fire separation between a garage and the house.
- ☐ Find the special construction provisions in your code book quickly.

## Practice with the free tools

Code navigation drill: raftertie.com/tools/code-navigation-drill
B1 lookup drill: raftertie.com/tools/icc-b1-lookup-drill
Stair check: raftertie.com/tools/irc-stair-check
Egress opening check: raftertie.com/tools/egress-opening-check
Rafter length calculator: raftertie.com/tools/rafter-length-calculator

## Read next

ICC B1 exam outline: raftertie.com/guides/icc-b1-exam-outline
IRC tabs for the B1: raftertie.com/guides/irc-tabs-for-the-b1
How to read IRC span tables: raftertie.com/guides/how-to-read-irc-span-tables
IRC terms glossary: raftertie.com/guides/irc-terms-glossary
2021 vs 2024 IRC: raftertie.com/guides/2021-vs-2024-irc

## How to use this checklist

- Take the free 10-question check first and start with the area it shows as weakest.
- Tab your IRC to match the seven areas, then time yourself finding each line's answer.
- Use the same code edition you will test with, 2021 or 2024.


### Ready to test yourself? 10 free ICC B1 questions

Find your weakest topic in minutes. Every answer is explained as you go, and there is no signup.

Take the free check: raftertie.com/icc-inspector

B1 course with IRC navigation drills: $99. Lessons, practice exams and a study plan.



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