

NSPIREcheck

NSPIRE-V Readiness Guide

What HUD Inspectors Check | Mandatory for All Section 8 Units | Effective February 1, 2027

www.nspirecheck.com

Is Your Rental Ready?

HUD's new NSPIRE-V standard replaces the old UPCS inspection system. Every Section 8 unit will be graded against these standards starting February 1, 2027 (many PHAs are already using them). A failed inspection can delay voucher payments and require costly re-inspections.

This guide gives you an overview of what inspectors check, how items are scored, and what happens when something fails. Use it to understand the scope - then use NSPIREcheck to do the actual inspection with AI-powered photo analysis.

AT A GLANCE

8

Inspection Areas

75

Total Items Checked

4

Severity Levels

24hr - 60d

Fix Deadlines

Understanding Severity Levels

Every deficiency is classified into one of four severity levels. Life-Threatening and Severe items cause automatic inspection failure and must be fixed within strict deadlines.

LIFE-THREATENING

9 items | Fix within: 24 hours | Inspection result: YES - Automatic Fail

Immediate danger to occupants. Inspectors must report these on-site. Failure to fix within 24 hours can result in unit being condemned. Examples: gas leaks, exposed wiring, non-functional smoke detectors.

SEVERE

28 items | Fix within: 30 days | Inspection result: YES - Automatic Fail

Significant health or safety risk. These items alone will fail your inspection. Examples: missing handrails on stairs, broken exterior steps, inoperable windows in bedrooms.

MODERATE

26 items | Fix within: 30 days | Inspection result: Lowers Score

Property condition issues that affect habitability. Multiple moderate deficiencies will lower your overall score. Examples: leaking faucets, damaged flooring, peeling paint.

LOW

12 items | Fix within: 60 days | Inspection result: Minor Impact

Minor maintenance items. While not individually serious, accumulation signals neglect. Examples: missing house numbers, worn caulking, minor cosmetic issues.

What Gets Inspected: Room-by-Room Overview

Inspectors walk through your unit area by area. Here's what they check in each one - and how many items could trip you up.

Exterior & Entry

17 items inspected

● 1 Life-Threatening ● 7 Severe ● 3 Moderate ● 6 Low

The inspection starts outside before the inspector even walks in. They'll look at the grounds, walkways, stairs, entry points, and building exterior.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Walk your property from the street - what do you see?
- Check every step, railing, and walkway for damage
- Make sure house numbers are visible from the curb

Living Room

13 items inspected

● 2 Life-Threatening ● 4 Severe ● 6 Moderate ● 1 Low

The main living area is checked for safety devices, structural integrity, electrical hazards, and overall condition of walls, floors, and windows.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Test every smoke detector and CO detector
- Check all outlets and switches for damage
- Look for signs of water damage on ceilings and walls

Kitchen

9 items inspected

● 1 Severe ● 6 Moderate ● 2 Low

The kitchen inspection covers appliances, plumbing, ventilation, food preparation surfaces, and storage. Functional issues here are common failure points.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Run every faucet and check under sinks for leaks
- Make sure all burners and the oven work
- Check that the exhaust fan or range hood operates

Bedroom

5 items inspected

● 3 Life-Threatening ● 2 Moderate

Each bedroom is inspected individually. Focus areas include egress windows, smoke detection, electrical safety, and overall room condition.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Every bedroom MUST have a working smoke detector
- Windows must open, close, and lock properly
- Check for proper egress - can someone escape in a fire?

Bathroom

9 items inspected

● 1 Life-Threatening ● 1 Severe ● 6 Moderate ● 1 Low

Each bathroom is inspected individually. Inspectors check plumbing fixtures, ventilation, hot water, and moisture/mold conditions.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Check that hot and cold water work at every fixture
- Look for mold or mildew around tubs and showers
- Make sure the toilet is secure and doesn't run

Hallway & Common Areas

13 items inspected

● 9 Severe ● 2 Moderate ● 2 Low

Common areas including hallways, stairs, closets, laundry areas, and utility access points. Stairways and railings are particularly scrutinized.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Every stairway needs a secure, graspable handrail
- Emergency lighting and exit signs must work (if applicable)
- Check that all interior doors open, close, and latch properly

Heating, Cooling & Water Heater

6 items inspected

● 2 Life-Threatening ● 4 Severe

The mechanical systems inspection covers HVAC, water heater, and related equipment. Many life-threatening deficiencies are found here.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Verify the heating system runs and produces heat
- Water heater must have a working T&P relief valve
- Check for proper venting on all fuel-burning appliances

Sprinkler & Fire Safety

3 items inspected

● 2 Severe ● 1 Moderate

Only inspected if the unit has a sprinkler system. Covers sprinkler heads, control valves, and related fire suppression equipment.

Quick Prep Tips:

- Check that sprinkler heads aren't painted over or blocked
- Verify control valves are in the open position
- Look for any signs of corrosion or damage

** Only applicable if the unit has a sprinkler system installed*

What Happens When You Fail an NSPIRE-V Inspection

- ! Voucher payments may be suspended until deficiencies are corrected
- ! Re-inspection fees may apply (varies by PHA)
- ! Life-threatening items must be corrected within 24 hours or the unit may be condemned
- ! Repeated failures can result in the property being removed from the voucher program
- ! Tenants may be authorized to move with their voucher to another property

Don't Guess. Know Before They Knock.

NSPIREcheck walks you through every item, room by room. Take a photo and our AI instantly analyzes it against NSPIRE-V standards. Get a scored Readiness Report, a Compliance Certificate, and a prioritized fix-it list - everything you need to pass with confidence.
Start your free inspection at app.nspirecheck.com

Free vs. NSPIREcheck Report

FEATURE	THIS GUIDE	
Know what areas are inspected	Yes	Yes
Understand severity levels	Yes	Yes
General preparation tips	Yes	Yes
Room-by-room guided walkthrough	--	Yes
Specific check questions for each item	--	Yes
AI photo analysis against standards	--	Yes
Scored Readiness Report (PDF)	--	Yes
Compliance Certificate	--	Yes
Prioritized fix-it list with deadlines	--	Yes
Product links for needed repairs	--	Yes

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not replace an official HUD NSPIRE-V inspection. Standards are based on HUD NSPIRE-V rules effective February 1, 2027. Always consult your PHA for official inspection scheduling and requirements.