

Subfloor and Joist Salvage Checklist

What to check before an interior strip-out starts

Before The Crew Arrives

1 Identify what is under the flooring

Plank, plywood, and particleboard sub-surfaces salvage differently.

2 Look for a prior repair or patch

A previously replaced section hints at an earlier problem underneath.

3 Note the home's approximate age

Older construction changes how finishes and materials should be handled.

Signs Worth A Closer Look

1 Staining, softness, or a damp smell

Mark these areas for the crew before work starts.

2 Sagging or springy flooring

A framing question, not a subfloor cosmetics question.

3 Cut or notched joists

Common where plumbing or wiring passed through; worth a second look.

Questions For Your Contractor

1 Do you want any material kept?

A clear answer lets hand demolition and machine strip-out be quoted honestly.

2 Who assesses the framing if something looks off?

Ask who that referral goes to before it comes up mid-project.

3 How will lead-paint-era material be handled?

Worth asking directly in a home built before 1960.

Bring this checklist to your first walkthrough, before any flooring comes up.

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