

Design Delivery Checklist

A complete list of best practices for delivering designs in product development — based on the **Principles of design delivery**.

01 Separate ready-to-build designs from designs in-progress 

Make a clear distinction between which designs are finalized vs. work that's being iterated on

Developers and other team members shouldn't be confused on which designs they should be looking at, including the correct versions.

02 Track changes to shared designs deliberately 

Create versions intentionally and highlight changes screen-by-screen

Once development starts, all new changes are critical. Developers need to be able to identify all updates between screens during build.


03 Organize designs in a standardized way 

Group and arrange your files, designs, and screens by sub-features or sprints

Developers — and all other collaborators — should be able to quickly find the designs they need without special instructions or walkthroughs.

Standardize how all designers share designs

Organizing and then sharing designs in a unified and predictable way allows your team to collaborate more efficiently and make fewer errors.

04 Communicate the complete user journey 

Share the complete user flow, including all states and edge cases, in one place

Developers need to understand how all the mockups in your designs connect. A bird's eye view of all scenarios matters, not just the happy path.

05 Document behavior and requirements in context 

Provide design instructions, including technical requirements, next to the designs

Designs by themselves don't communicate important details like how certain elements should behave. Developers should have quick access to those requirements when viewing designs.


Bring together all of the resources that support your team's workflows, including relevant documents and tools

Developers also benefit from resources that give context on the "why" behind designs and connect to their workflow, such as your design system reference, Confluence, Google Docs, Tasks in Jira, Linear, etc.

06 Display design system elements that are used 

Indicate which design elements come from the design system, directly on designs

The design system elements — like components, colors, text styles, and spacing — should be the first thing developers see on a design. Make sure to reference them clearly.

07 Include technical specs and assets tailored to the development stack 

Provide style elements, such as color codes, text styles, and dimensions, in the appropriate formats and units

When developers receive design specifications with their workflow in mind, they can build more efficiently and also focus more on matching the final product to the design.

Provide all relevant design assets like icons, illustrations, and images based on development platform

Developers need design assets in different formats, depending on if they're building for Web, iOS, Android, etc.



Learn more about the **Principles of design delivery** and why they're essential, or **contact an expert**.

Zeplin is the trusted platform for unifying product development teams and accelerating product delivery at scale. Document designs, manage workflows, and build products faster.