

Regression Test Suite Audit Template

Audit your regression suite for stale tests, duplicate coverage, missing risks, unstable automation, weak assertions, and execution waste.

Purpose

Use this template before major releases, after repeated escaped defects, or when regression execution becomes slow, noisy, or hard to trust.

1. Suite Inventory

- List all regression tests with owner, feature area, priority, automation status, last update, and execution frequency.
- Identify tests with no clear requirement, risk, defect history, or customer journey behind them.
- Mark tests that are manual-only, automated-only, duplicated across layers, or no longer executable.
- Confirm that critical business workflows are visible in the inventory.

2. Coverage Health

- Map regression coverage to current product risks, recent defects, high-usage journeys, and release-critical areas.
- Identify missing coverage for integrations, permissions, data states, error handling, compatibility, and recovery paths.
- Remove or merge duplicate tests that validate the same behavior with the same signal.
- Check whether low-risk cosmetic checks are crowding out higher-risk behavior coverage.

3. Test Quality

- Expected results are specific, observable, and tied to product behavior.
- Preconditions, data, steps, and cleanup needs are clear enough for repeatable execution.
- Automated assertions validate meaningful outcomes rather than only page loads or element presence.
- Tests are reviewed for unclear names, stale screenshots, obsolete flows, and hidden dependencies.

4. Execution Efficiency

- Execution time, queue time, setup time, and failure triage time are measured.
- Tests are grouped into smoke, critical regression, extended regression, and optional deep-dive sets.
- Slow tests are reviewed for value, layer placement, data setup, and opportunities to move below the UI.
- Repeated false failures are investigated and assigned rather than normalized.

5. Audit Actions

- Tag each test as keep, update, merge, automate, de-automate, quarantine, or retire.
- Assign owners and due dates for the highest-value cleanup items.
- Track suite health over time with size, runtime, flakiness, defect signal, and maintenance effort.
- Review the audit after the next release to confirm it improved confidence and speed.