Code Review Best Practices

These best-practices are predicated on the existence of defined coding standards.

It is recommended that code-review be done as a standard, routine part of the development-cycle. Schedule regular code-review sessions for a defined period with a clear agenda, goals and participants; while ad hoc discussions are invaluable, they cannot substitute for regular, formal code-review and the good habits that this encourages.

Code reviews should integrate with a team's existing work-process, but should not precede existence of adequate unit-test coverage unit-tests.

Code review checklist by Fog Creek Software [1: run by Joel Spolsky, an authority on software quality]

1. Desired Outcomes

- The outcome of a code-review must be a set of SMART [2: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-based] action-items.

- The action-items must be recorded in an issue-tracking system.

- Code-review objectives should be tracked as deliverables as part of the overall delivery.