Construction Cost Estimating Tools

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Use software programs to help you create a budget for your construction or home building project.

A cost estimate calculations help you determine how much a particular project is going to cost and if you can afford it. Construction cost estimating tools help you figure out the cost of materials and labor, and it gives you a guide to follow, ensuring that you stay on budget. You always need a budget before you start on a project.

Major software manufacturers offer you a variety of tools to help you with this task whether you are a homeowner or industry professional. Some of these programs even provide you with the cheapest place to find your materials, ensuring that you get the best deals.

Craftsman

Craftsman Book Company produces different cost estimating books and software programs. For example, the 2011 National Concrete and Masonry Estimator helps you calculate the costs of materials and manual labor based on current prices.

You can even look up the prices of specialty items right from the program. The 2011 National Construction Estimator program helps you figure out how much you need to spend on different construction projects, including building a home. As of 2011, these programs range from $39.99 to $108.50.

CostEstimator.com

This site offers a range of construction cost estimating tools, and this is an Internet-based program. You simply input your data, and the program calculates the total cost of the project. You can easily update your information with the latest pricing by logging into your account.

You receive the prices of your local market, ensuring that your bids or cost estimates are accurate for your area. All of your data is hosted online, which means that you can access it from any computer. You can try this

program free for 30 days, but you must pay the monthly subscription after that time period expires. As of 2011, it costs $14.95 per month.

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CPR

CPR sells both specialty and general cost estimating software tools. For example, PaintCOST Estimator for Excel helps you determine the costs for both interior and exterior paint jobs, including the cost of the paint, materials and labor. The GeneralCOST Estimator for Excel helps you calculate the cost of the entire project.

To use these software programs, you must have Microsoft Excel. As of 2011, this program costs between $39 and $89, but you can try this program for free for 30 days.

Home-Cost

Home-Cost's Resi-Cost software programs help you figure out the costs of building or remodeling a home. This is a hosted program, and you pay for these tools on a monthly basis. Select from different design choices if you are building a new home, and you can create a report of your estimated costs. As of 2011, this program starts at $24.50 per month.

Always try a program before buying to determine whether or not it fits your needs. Fully explore the program, including creating a budget. Further, really compare the costs given to you by the program to the actual cost in your area to determine if they really match. You can also always purchase materials secondhand, but you need to account for the full price in case you can't find at your local salvage yard.

Misty Faucheux - Misty Faucheux has been a freelance writer for over 10 years, and she has written for both online and offline publications, including ...

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