

Construction Estimator

Preface

Say good-bye to that aggravating stack of scribbled paper scraps forever! *Construction Estimator* makes it fast and easy to crank out construction estimates that are accurate, organized and professional. It's simple to navigate through this user-friendly program with the aid of basic diagrams and practical buttons. It automatically totals a detailed list of wood, concrete, other materials and labor based on the costs you enter. You can work from a fixed set of costs or ones particular to that project.

It all adds up to the most complete, professional construction estimate your customer will see. You've saved plenty of time, scratch pads and pencils, and you've accounted for everything. Cutting the time of writing estimates helps you nail down bigger profits!

Accuracy

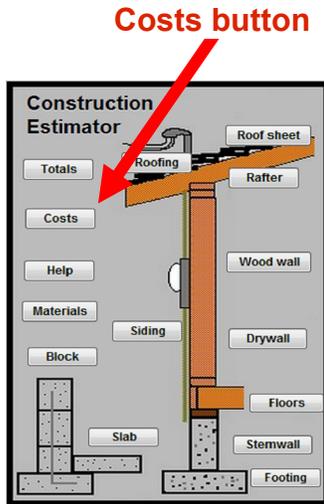
Of course, the degree of your estimates accuracy depends on a number of factors. A small project, such as an addition, will likely produce a very close estimate. A bigger project, such as an entire home, may incur unexpected costs (such as more joists for support) and unforeseen difficulties (such as hard soil or bad weather). Careful input, along with experience that gives foresight, will yield a more accurate estimate.

Nothing is more critical to the success of a project than accurate measurements. While *Construction Estimator* can estimate the total lengths of wood and yards of concrete a project may involve, they are only estimates. To this, we offer two critical suggestions:

1. Cut wood to your specific measurements, not to the lengths estimated by this program.
2. Use your own judgment to add to concrete estimates. Unusual ground conditions and irregular dimensions make concrete estimates an imprecise science. It's better to have some left over than to run out in the middle of a project.

Getting started

Once you've opened *Construction Estimator*, you'll view a diagram of the 11 basic construction elements. For these functions to calculate total costs, your first step will be to input unit costs for materials. From the main menu press the Costs button. Then the cost form will open. Fill out this form from local vendors. You can call a concrete company and get concrete prices, Call a roofing supply store and get roofing per square cost etc.



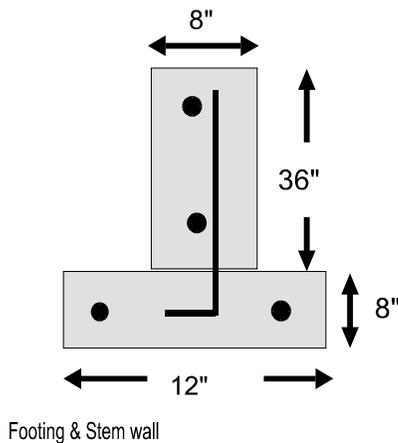
Costs form

The 'Costs' form is a table with two columns: the material name and its unit cost. The values are entered into spinners. A 'Save & exit' button is at the bottom.

Costs	
Concrete per yard	78
Blocks/bricks each	0.34
Wall per lineal ft.	1.23
Flooring per sq. ft.	33
Flooring tile each.....	0.12
Rafter per foot.....	1.77
Siding per 4x8 sheet.....	22
Siding per 4x9 sheet	33
Siding other per foot.....	44
Sheetrock	55
Roof sheeting 4x8	66
Roofing per square.....	77

Save & exit

Footings



Footing

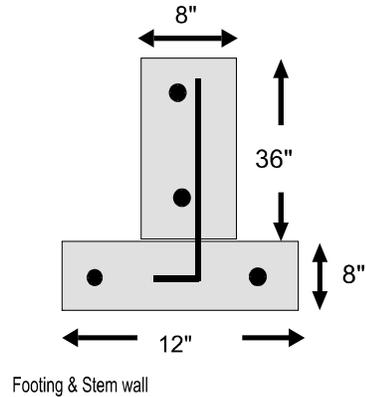
The 'Footing' form has three input fields: 'Length in feet' (123), 'Width in inches' (12), and 'Depth in inches' (12). Below these is a 'Calculate' button. The results are shown in a table below the button.

Concrete yards	4.56
Concrete cost	\$560

Exit Calculator

This function estimates the amount of concrete needed for the footings. Add together the lengths of all footings with the same width and depth. Then enter the dimensions and click Calculate.

Stem wall



Stemwall	
Length in feet	123
Width in inches	8
Depth in inches	36
<input type="button" value="Calculate"/>	
Concrete yards	9.11
Concrete cost	\$1,121
<input type="button" value="Exit"/> <input type="button" value="Calculator"/>	

This function estimates the amount of concrete needed for the stem walls. Add together the lengths of all stem walls with the same width and depth. Enter them and click Calculate.

Slab

Slab	
Length in feet	22
Width in feet	25
Depth in inches	4
<input type="button" value="Calculate"/>	
Concrete yards	6.79
Concrete cost	\$835
<input type="button" value="Exit"/> <input type="button" value="Calculator"/>	

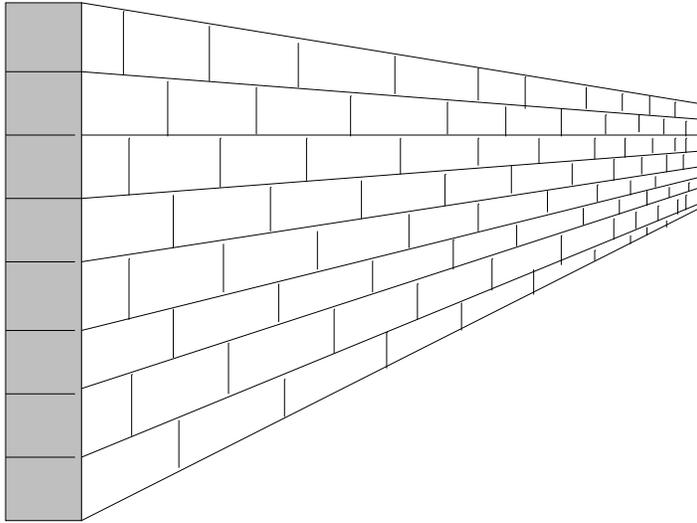
This function estimates the number of yards of concrete you will need for a particular project. The best way to estimate odd sizes is input one set of dimensions and click Calculate.

Stucco/Gravel

You can also estimate stucco or gravel with the slab function

Thickness in inches: If the thickness of the stucco is 1/2" enter in 0.5 if the stucco is 3/4" thick enter in 0.75. Note: any decimal input is OK.

Block wall



Block Wall

Block height inches

Block Length inches

Wall height in feet

Wall Length in feet

Blocks	1,206
Block cost	\$1,616

This function estimates the number of full blocks needed. If your project calls for half blocks, be sure to add them to your estimate and your order.

Drywall

Drywall

Wall length in ft.

Wall height in ft.

Sheetrock width in ft.

Sheetrock length in ft.

Number of pieces	14
Cost	\$98

Each wall is calculated from the length and height dimensions. The cost of drywall used around windows and sliding glass doors, where remnants are usually used, is negligible. The easiest way to estimate the ceilings is to enter the overall length and width of the house.

Floors

Flooring

Length in ft.

Width in ft.

Material size

Material width feet

Material length feet

Number of sheets	18
Cost	\$594

This function estimates the number of 4'x8' sheets and/or the floor tile. First enter the dimensions of floor that will be covered by 4'x8' sheets and click Calculate. Then select Other option, enter the length and width in inches of the floor tile . Click Calculate. Both calculations will show up in Totals estimate.

Wood wall

Wood wall

Length in feet

Height in feet

Stud spacing in inches

Number of plates

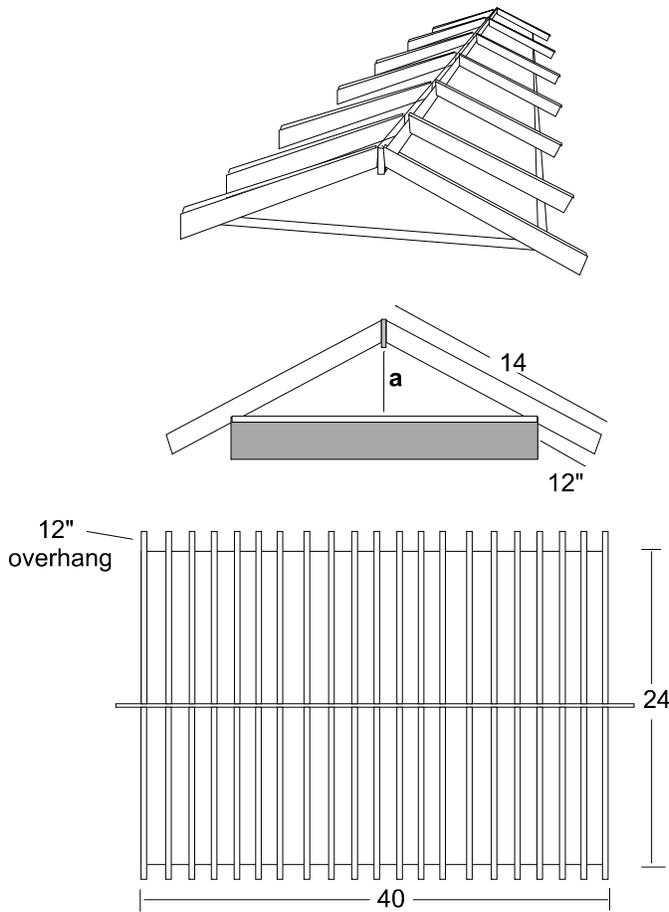
Number of windows

Number of doors

Number of studs	110 Studs
Stud length	8 ft.
Total plate length	372 ft.
Total wood length	1,252 total ft.
Wood cost	2,504

This function estimates the number of studs and the total length of all wood. It is best to add the total length of all walls then input this number into the length in feet text box.

Rafters



Rafter

Building length in ft. 24

Building width in ft. 32

Roof overhang in inches 12

Roof pitch 5

Rafter spacing 24

Is roof ridge parallel to length of building? Yes No

Number of Rafters	24 Rafters
Rafter length	18 ft. long
Total wood length	440 total ft.
Wood cost	1,320

This function deals with rafter layouts. It estimates the number of rafters, the rafter length, the total length of wood.

Notes:

Pitch of roof: Input a number between 1-12. A roof rarely exceeds a 5/12 pitch.

Spacing in inches: Inputs must be even feet: 12, 16, or 24.

Roof parallel to length: Are rafters parallel to the structure's length or width?

Length: Wood is sold in 2-foot increments. If you need a 12.5-foot 2x6, you must order a 14-footer.

These are only estimates, don't cut wood to this measurement, you must make the final rafter measurement.

Roofing

Roofing	
Building length in ft.	24
Building width in ft.	32
Overhang in inches	12
Roof pitch	5
Is roof ridge parallel to length of building?	<input type="button" value="Yes"/> <input type="button" value="No"/>
Roof squares	8.80
Roof cost	\$678
<input type="button" value="Exit"/> <input type="button" value="Calculator"/>	

This function estimates the amount of roofing needed for a project. It calculates (a) the number of roof squares (10'x10' or 100 square feet), (Most types of roofing surfaces are measured in roof squares, including shake, asphalt tile and concrete tile.)

Notes:

Pitch of roof: Input a number between 1-12. A roof rarely exceeds a 5/12 pitch.

Roof parallel to length: Are rafters parallel to the structure's length or width?

Metal roofs: Since metal roofing is usually cut at the store, you need to give them the rafter length. This may cost extra.

Roof sheet

Roof Sheet	
Building length in ft.	24
Building width in ft.	32
Overhang in inches	12
Roof pitch	5
Is roof ridge parallel to length of building?	<input type="button" value="Yes"/> <input type="button" value="No"/>
4x8 Roof sheets	28
Sheet cost	\$908
<input type="button" value="Exit"/> <input type="button" value="Calculator"/>	

This function deals with the amount of 4x8 plywood or other wood used on the roof. It calculates (a) the number of 4x8 sheets,

Wall siding

Wall siding

Walls length in ft. 156

Wall height in feet 8

Material used

4 x 8 4 x 9 Other

Siding 4x8	39
Sheet cost	\$1,365

Exit Calculator

Wall siding

Walls length in ft. 156

Wall height in feet 8

Material used

4 x 8 4 x 9 Other

Width of siding in inches 8

Calculate for inches

Siding	1,872 Total ft
Wood cost	\$3,126

Exit Calculator

This function estimates wall siding input the total length of all outside walls. Press either button for 4x8 or 4x9 sheets. If you are going to use lap siding then press the “other” button and input the width of the siding in inches.

Totals

You may view the current totals at any time by choosing Totals from the View menu. As the number of estimates increases and fills up the grid. To view mor of your estimate press the “More totals” button. You have room for a maximum number of 24 rows. To Delete a row type in a row number and then press the Delete button.

To delete a row type in the row number and then press the delete button.

Estimate Totals

#	Item	Quantity	Cost
1	Slab	18.47 yards	2,272
2	Footing	11.14 yards	1,370
3	Stemwall	3.04 yards	374
4	Wood wall	94 Studs	-
5	studs	8.00 feet	-
6	plates	369 feet	-
7	Form wood	2x6 for forms	300
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

12 Delete Totals 4,316.00

email estimate Exit More totals

