



Archicentre

Building design & inspection experts

Archicentre Cost Guide

Market Summary Overview

Interest rate rises during 2010 and the withdrawal of the First Home Owners Grants has slowed activity in the new home sector.

Under normal circumstances this might increase competition in the home renovation sector and bring some good news to aspiring renovators. Catastrophic floods have swept Australia in early 2011, however, which will result in a re-building effort described by some as of "post-war proportions" and stretch the building industry to its limit, particularly in Brisbane. Construction costs will rise and the need for independent checks of building work will increase as tradespersons struggle to keep up with the work.

Smart renovators will act quickly, detail their projects thoroughly, get at least 3 prices and sign binding building contracts that have been independently checked to protect their interests.

Preliminary cost estimates are a must, as are independent building checks during construction before you pay your builder - to make sure that you get what you are being asked to pay for.

Please call Archicentre if you need a costed renovation Design Concept or Quality Assurance Inspections during your building project.

Materials Cost Index (by State)

The estimates in this guide are based on a selection of building materials at Sydney prices. Capital city adjustments are as follows:

Brisbane	+5%
Melbourne	- 0.5%
Adelaide	+0%
Perth	+7%
Hobart	+2.5%

Labour costs will also vary and regional areas will have increase of 5% to 15%.

Notes: For new houses and major renovations, the cost structure is approximately as follows:

Materials	46%
Labour	33%
Fees, Levies, permits, taxes, GST	21%

For country areas, add 5% to 15% to capital city figures.

Repair & Maintenance Costs

Concrete / Paving (\$)

New Concrete Path (per m ²)	49 - 64
New Driveway ¹	Plain Concrete (per m ²) 55 - 73 Coloured Concrete (per m ²) 63 - 87
Slate Impression on Concrete (per m ²)	72
Stencilled Concrete (per m ²)	82

Notes:

1. Based on average 75mm thickness and minimum area of 50m² (An average driveway is about 70m²)

DAMP - Rising Damp/Salt Damp (\$)

Silicon Injected Damp-Proof	Single Brick	71 - 82
Course (per linear metre)	Double Brick	120 - 145
Replace Damp-Proof	Single Brick	150 - 180
Course (per linear metre)	Double Brick	220 - 255
Re-Point Mortar (per m ²)		7.8 - 17.6
New Air Vents	Clay	40 - 46
	Galvanised Steel	24 - 30

Notes:

1. The price increases in all categories depending on surface condition.
2. Figures do not include re-plastering and other repair of wall surfaces.

Drainage (\$)

Drain to Stormwater or Sump	e.g. 20m = 1,420 - 2,500
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Notes:

1. Prices vary depending on access and length. An average length could be 20 metres at approx \$71 - \$125 per m.
2. Does not include removal or replacement of hard surfaces over drains. Refer to "paving" category.

Fencing (\$)

Perimeter Paling ¹	1600 - 1900mm	57 - 100 (per m)
Front Picket	Various types	51 - 152 (per m)
Gates	Single	465 - 655
	Double	1,255 - 1,795

Notes:

1. There are many varieties of fencing throughout Australia. This guide bases its prices on the Victorian type of perimeter fence

Floor Repair (\$)

Framing	Joists & Bearers ¹	15 - 31 per lineal metre
Floorboards	From particleboard	33 - 335 (per m ²)
	to feature timbers	

Notes:

1. Joist spacings for a normal room are 450mm apart. Bearer spacings are around 1500mm apart. So a 20m² room would cost around \$1,185 - \$1,550 to replace.
2. Areas under 10m² will attract significantly higher installation costs.
3. Excludes demolition.

Guttering & Downpipes (\$)

Zincalume	Per linear metre	30 - 48
	Whole house	2,540 - 3,400
Colorbond	Per linear metre	36 - 56
	Whole house	3,000 - 4,020

Notes:

1. Prices are based on an average house with 70 linear metres of guttering and four downpipes, supplied and fitted.

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Insulation (\$)

Thermal Rating			R2.0 - R2.5
Ceiling	Cellulose Fibre	(per m ²)	4.5 - 6.7
	Cellulose Fibre	House Lot	680 - 1005
	Fibreglass Batts	(per m ²)	14.1 - 19
	Fibreglass Batts	House Lot	2,120 - 2,850
Walls	R1.5 Batts	(per m ²)	13.5 - 18.4
	430 Foil	(per m ²)	6.2 - 8.5

Notes:

1. All figures based on 150m² house/roof with reasonable access.

Painting (\$)

Exterior	Timber ¹ - Good Condition	12 - 25 (per m ²)
	Timber - Bad Condition	17 - 29 (per m ²)
	Brick ²	12 - 15 (per m ²)
Interior³	per square metre	11 - 24
	Single Room 3m x 4m x 3m	650 - 830
	"Victorian Style" (per room) ⁴	1,800 - 2,300

Notes:

1. Painting of timber houses includes windows and door frames, plus the weatherboards.
2. Painting of brick houses involves only windows & door frames.
3. Includes doors, skirting & architraves. Poor surface conditions can double these indicative prices, e.g. for extra coats of paint, and for extensive preparation.
4. Includes special trims and a variety of colours.
5. Figures based on average size house (150m²) with reasonable structural condition.

Pest Management - Termite Treatment (\$)

Dusting¹	500 - 1,000
Trenching²	2,500 - 6,000
Drilling Trees (per tree)	200 - 600
Baiting³	2,500 - 6,000
Physical Barriers⁴	2,000 - 6,500
Timber Pest Inspection^{5,6,7}	300 - 425

Notes:

1. Involves dusting termite galleries with termiticide, which spreads throughout colony.
2. Involves digging a trench, flooding with termiticide and backfilling with soil which soaks up chemical, also applying under floor of building.
3. Involves attracting termites into bait boxes, then placing a termiticide to eliminate them.
4. These are more for new housing, with prices depending on methods, materials and extent of barriers.
5. Termite, Borer, Wood Decay Fungi and other destructive timber pests.
6. Figures based on 150m² house with reasonable access.
7. Sydney and Brisbane tend to be at the lower end of inspection prices, Melbourne at the higher end, and other metropolitan cities in the middle. However, any city's prices can be in the upper or lower extreme.

Plastering¹ (\$)

Contemporary Finish	Whole House	11,500 - 14,800
	Single Room 3m x 4m x 3m	1,470 - 1,870
"Victorian" Style Finish²	Whole House	21,300 - 32,600
	Single Room 3m x 4m x 3m	2,500 - 3,900
Hard Plaster (per m²)		40 - 80
Standard Plasterboard (per m²)		20 - 40

Notes:

1. Does not include demolition or removal of existing plaster walls.
2. Prices include elaborate cornices, architraves etc.
3. Figures based on 150m² house with reasonable access.

Plumbing (\$)

Renew Cold Water Pipes	1,580 - 2,450
Hot Water Service unit renewal	1,180 - 1,630
Complete house replumb¹	7,650 - 12,140

Notes:

1. Complete replumbing includes hot and cold water replacement, gutters and downpipes (using a house with 70 linear metres of guttering and four downpipes as standard). Should get guttering price separate. Difficult access increases the cost.

Restumping (Reblocking) (\$)

Per Stump (Concrete)		60 - 100 Melb
		230 - 400 Bris
Per Average (150m ²) House	Timber (80-90 Stumps)	5,200 - 9,000 Melb
	Brick Veneer (60 Stumps)	4,300 - 6,200 Melb
	Solid Brick (40 Stumps)	3,500 - 4,700 Melb

Notes:

1. This category is only relevant in States where the houses have stumps as part of their subfloor structure (eg. excludes NSW)
2. Excludes repairs to doors, windows, replastering etc. which can need extensive repairs in some cases.
3. Extra to replace timber (ie. bearers, joists etc.) Allow about \$15-31 per linear metre.
4. Hourly rate for extra excavation (eg. if rock is found). Allow about \$60 per hour.
5. Brisbane stumps may be 2.5 metres high at 2.4m spacing and, say, 50 stumps per house. (Note: costs can vary dramatically.)
6. Poor subfloor access requires that floorboards be lifted and replaced at a carpenter's hourly rate.
7. Melbourne houses which are low to the ground (typically inner suburbs) require trenching for jack access under bearers, and could double the cost.

Replacement Roofing (\$)

Tiles	Concrete	8,600 - 10,500
		or 46 - 65m ²
	Terra Cotta	10,600 - 12,690
		or 62 - 81m ²
Metal	Zincalume	4,940 - 9,050
		or 33 - 52m ²
	Colorbond	6,500 - 10,000
		or 42 - 62m ²
Slate	Strip & Re-Nail	11,300 - 13,400
	New Roof	25,400 - 48,000
		or 155 - 330m ²
Repointing²		780 - 1,600
Rebedding³		950 - 1,900

Notes:

1. Based on 150m² house with conventional pitch and simple roof lines. "Replacement" includes battens and new guttering but not ceiling joists.
2. "Repointing" means renewal of mortar around the outside of ridge and valley tiles.
3. "Rebedding" is removal of the tile & its old mortar and repositioning tile on new mortar.
4. Prices of 2 & 3 vary greatly depending on the number of ridges & valleys which the roof has.

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Tiling (\$)		
Floor	Ceramic Tiling (per m ²)	95 - 170
	Quarry Tiling (per m ²)	95 - 130
	Vinyl Tiling (per m ²)	41 - 100
Wall	Ceramic Tiling (per m ²)	90 - 162
Notes:		
1. Prices vary significantly depending on selection of tiles and grout.		
2. Figures include labour and material and assume application onto a reasonable sub-surface.		

Window Renewal (Domestic) (\$)		
Awning	Aluminium	240 - 500 (per m ²)
	Timber	320 - 650 (per m ²)
Double Glazing		add 105 - 315 (per m ²)
Skylight	eg. 600 x 600	460 - 1,000
Notes:		
1. Square metre rates for windows increase for smaller windows and decrease for larger windows.		
2. Double hung window costs are about 20% more, sashless are around 50% more.		
3. Skylight cost includes shaft installation.		

Underpinning (\$)	
Per Pad (or pin size) 1000x1000x900	1,300 - 2,500
Per Pad (or pin size) 1000x1000x600	1,080 - 1,940
Soil Test	225 - 350
Engineer's Report	310 - 850
Replacement of Bearers & Joists	31 - 50 per lineal metre
Removal of Sub-Floor Soil	180 - 355 (per m ³)
Notes:	
1. Higher prices are likely with more unstable soil that will require more excavation etc.	
2. Soil Test and Engineer's Report costs can vary by 50%.	

Trade Labour Rates (\$/HR)	
Brick Layer	39 - 57
Carpenter	39 - 55
Plumber and Gas Fitter	46 - 61
Plasterer	39 - 56
Painter	39 - 56
Electrician	46 - 56
Drainer	46 - 60
Notes:	
1. Figures include a supervision, profit and overhead margin of 10%-20%. This will vary with different contractors. These prices assume continuous work over some days. Smaller jobs' rates can cost up to 50% more.	

Tree Removal (\$)	
Cutting down & Removal per Tree	300 - 1,600
Notes:	
1. Prices are extremely variable and depend on the following: tree height, trunk circumference, density of branches/foilage, access to site for travel towers, woodchippers & grinders, obstructions, buildings underneath, tree alive or dead. The range could be wider if all the factors counted against easy removal. Prices decrease for volume.	

Wiring (\$)		
Complete House Rewire 34 - 53 per m ²	5,800 - 8,750	
Other Common Items	Safety Switch	280 - 400
	Service Call	78 - 130
	Individual Power Points	80 - 165
Notes:		
1. Based on 150m ² house with 15-18 power outlets, 15-18 light points, new mains and box circuit breaker switchboard with reasonable access.		
2. Price increases significantly depending on accessibility.		

Renovation & Extension Cost Guide

This part of the guide provides some typical costs for common renovation and extension projects.

EXTENSIONS

1. The indicative square metre rates are for basic shell only, and the extended roofline over the shell.
2. Prices assume good access to the site and relatively simple roof configuration.
3. Where the extension involves kitchens, bathrooms and laundries, you must also add the "additions to new construction" costs to the total, since these rooms need special fittings and fixtures.
4. The indicative costs do not include upgrading of services such as electrical, plumbing, heating or repairs and upgrades to parts of the existing house such as roof and gutter repairs, painting, damp, re-blocking and pest treatment. You may also need to allow for paving and landscaping upgrades.

RENOVATIONS

Indicative costs assume that the rooms which are being renovated are in sound condition, needing no structural upgrade. Good access is also assumed.

A sample cost plan is provided overleaf.

Renovations (\$)	
Bathroom (ensuite is less)	9,588 - 24,990
Kitchen	10,608 - 31,722
Laundry	4,182 - 9,894
Bedroom	4,080 - 8,466
Single Room 20m ²	4,794 - 10,302
Notes: Prices include plastering, painting, wiring, plumbing, relocation or replacement of windows, the renewal of fittings and fixtures, cabinetry additions and surfacing eg. tiling. The estimates exclude stormwater drainage, paving, carpets, drapes, appliances or the construction of internal partitions to modify the layout of rooms. The upgrading standard is to medium-quality brick veneer or timber.	

Extensions - Ground Level (\$) Shell only		
Single Room (20m ²)		17,544 - 38,148
Larger Extension (per m ²)	Brick Veneer	989 - 1,693
	Solid Brick	1,071 - 1,997
	Weatherboard	881 - 1,652
Notes: 1. These prices also apply to upper level extensions when built at the same time as the ground level. 2. Prices include removal of one or two walls at the junction of works. 3. Inclusions: Plasterboard walls, painted two colours maximum, with two or three power points per room. 4. Exclusions: Plumbing, joinery and surfacing of wet areas, sanitary fixtures.		

WARNING ABOUT BUILDING PRICES

Building prices vary considerably, depending upon a number of factors such as:

- individual builders selected
- choice of materials
- extent of client involvement
- method of construction
- site accessibility
- extent of documentation
- size of the job; larger works achieve a more economical price per square metre
- quality of job required eg. project home or top of the range standard

MORE ACCURATE PRICING IS AVAILABLE

1. If your architect is preparing an Archicentre Design Concept Report for you, it will include cost estimates specific to your project.
2. Even better accuracy will be achieved after the Design Concept Report is developed and taken to competitive tender where actual prices are obtained. In many cases more than 30% of the construction cost can be saved and/or a better job achieved through your architect's preparing the tender documents and helping review the tenderers.

Additions to New Construction (\$)	
Bathroom	5,610 - 18,462
Kitchen	7,650 - 28,662
Laundry	3,162 - 8,262
Notes: In most respects this section is the same as the Renovation table. However, costs are less because no allowance needs to be made for repainting, replastering and replacing windows, since these have been included in the extension costs.	

Extensions - Upper Level (\$) Shell only		
Single Room (20m ²)		27,132 - 47,022
Larger Extension (per m ²)	Brick Veneer	1,305 - 2,203
	Solid Brick	1,468 - 2,499
	Weatherboard	1,142 - 1,723
Notes: In addition to ground level costs, these second storey costs include demolition of existing ground level roof, minor structural or reinforcement of the ground floor area and minor restructuring of the remaining lower floor roofing configuration. (Major reinforcement of the lower storey and roof configuration changes is often required, but this cost variation cannot be accurately estimated without direct reference to the specific project.)		

Sample Cost Plan for New Building, Renovation or Extensions

Sample Cost Plan (80m² Ground Level addition) (\$)	
Repairs and Alterations to Existing Building	
PC Allowances for work (extent yet to be determined)	
Re-stumping and Making Good	5,304 - 9,180
Re-roofing (eg. Colourbond)	6,630 - 10,200
Re-wiring	5,916 - 8,976
Other Alterations and Repairs to Remaining Building (misc. trade allowance)	5,100 - 10,200
SUB TOTAL	22,950 - 38,556
New Building (\$)	
Demolition and Removal	2,550 - 3,570
Additions (80m ² brick veneer shell allowance, ground floor)	79,152 - 135,456
Kitchen (mid-range, excluding whitegoods)	12,240 - 23,460
Bathroom Fitout (mid-range)	8,160 - 12,240
Laundry Fitout (excluding whitegoods)	4,080 - 8,160
Air Conditioning, Heating and Fireplaces, Light Fittings	Excluded - Excluded
Security, intercoms, ducted vacuum, "smart-wiring"etc.	Excluded - Excluded
SUB TOTAL	106,182 - 182,886
External Works and Services (\$)	
In-ground services - stormwater, sewer, water, gas	4,080 - 7,140
External paving and paths, crossover, carport	Excluded - Excluded
Fencing and gates, sheds, pergolas, decks etc.	Excluded - Excluded
SUB TOTAL	4,080 - 7,140
Builders Preliminaries, site costs, overheads and attendance (15 - 20%)	20,400 - 46,920
Other Costs and Allowances (\$)	
Escalation if project is delayed	Excluded - Excluded
Design change/contract contingency allowance (10.0%)	14,994 - 28,254
Design and professional fees	Excluded - Excluded
Items by the client, whitegoods, separate contracts, staging and miscellaneous.	Excluded - Excluded
SUB TOTAL	14,994 - 28,254
ESTIMATED TOTAL (GST is included in these figures)	168,606 - 303,756

Estimations based on average suburban prices.



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If you would like to talk to an Archicentre building design and inspection expert please call Archicentre on **1300 134 513** or go to **www.archicentre.com.au**

Please note: The Archicentre Cost Guide has been prepared in conjunction with PLANBUILD ESTIMATING (0417 322 074) www.planbuilddestimators.com.au