

How to Estimate Roofing Material Costs

Did you know historically 90% of roofing contractors have underbid their jobs? The first step to creating an accurate estimate is understanding your material costs.

Here is how to estimate your roofing materials and protect your profit.

No 1. Find the Roof's Square Count
Measure the square footage, then divide it by 100.
Ex. 2,400 SQF. ÷ 100 = 24 squares

No 2. Alternate Measuring Options
Measure Remotely: Upload an HD drone image of the roof into DIY roof measuring software.
Order a Roof Report: Have a service like RoofSnap measure the roof for you. Reports delivered in 2-to-4 hours.

No 3. Measure the Flashing
Flashing costs vary by brand and type, so find total length of flashing you will replace and multiply by your chosen brand's pricing.

No 4. Calculate Venting Cost
Like flashing, costs vary by brand and vent type. To calculate, multiply total venting by your chosen brand pricing.

No 5. Estimate Your Nails
Typically, you need 5 nails per starter shingle & 3 nails per field shingle.
• X starter shingles × 5 nails = A total starter nails
• X field shingles × 4 nails = B total field nails
• A starter nails + B field nails = C total nails

No 6. Calculate the Shingles
In general, you need 3 bundles of shingles per 1 roofing square.
Ex. 24 squares × 3 = 72 shingle bundles

No 7. Factor Waste Material
Order 10-to-15% extra of all materials
20% for complicated roofs

