

Stairway Materials and Labor

Materials

Estimating the quantity of materials for a stairway is done on a piece-by-piece basis. Once the design of the stairs has been determined, make a detailed materials list showing the quantity and quality of the individual pieces required, such as treads, risers, and balustrade parts. Total the cost of the materials. In the case of a stairway built primarily of manufactured components, the manufacturer may furnish a package price.

Labor

Labor costs can be only roughly estimated because of the many variables that will affect construction time. The suggestions below are very rough approximations. All estimates depend on the carpenter's experience, the style of the stairway, and the type of wood.

Example A: For an open stairway less than 12' long and 42" wide:

Step 1: Estimate construction time at $8\frac{3}{4}$ hours. This includes rough-cutting the stringers and framing and installing the stringers, treads, and risers.

Step 2: Add 3 hours if there is a turn in the stairway involving a platform or landing.

Step 3: Add 1 hour to install a handrail.

Step 4: Add $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the installation of the newel posts, rails, and balusters.

Example B: For a pre-cut stairway less than 12' long and 42" wide:

Step 1: Estimate 6 hours for assembly.

Step 2: If this stairway has a turn that includes a platform, add about 3 more hours.

Step 3: Add 1 hour for a handrail.

Step 4: For an open stairway with newel posts, rails, and balusters, add $2\frac{1}{2}$ more hours.

Estimating on the Job

Suppose your company is to build an open stairway that is $10\frac{1}{2}'$ long and 40" wide. It will have one platform. Estimate the time and labor cost for this open stairway if you hire one worker to do the job and pay him or her \$22.50 an hour. Round your answer to the nearest dollar.