



HOMEOWNER / PRINTABLE FIELD GUIDE

Compare Three Project Estimates

Use the same scope for every bid, then compare what is actually included.

Write a common scope first

Project address / room or exterior area / approximate quantity / access constraints / target completion date.

Photos and measurements help, but ask each professional to verify conditions in person when the scope warrants it.

Compare each proposal

- ☐ Business name, contact and proposal date
- ☐ Work areas and preparation steps
- ☐ Materials by product, grade and quantity where relevant
- ☐ Repairs, disposal, protection and cleanup
- ☐ Start and completion assumptions
- ☐ Permits, inspections and who coordinates them
- ☐ Allowances, exclusions, change-order method
- ☐ Payment milestones, warranty and total price

Three-bid worksheet

Bid A - price / included materials / timeline / exclusions / questions

Bid B - price / included materials / timeline / exclusions / questions

Bid C - price / included materials / timeline / exclusions / questions



Ask before choosing

Why does one bid differ? Is the same prep included? Are hidden-condition allowances clear? Is tax included? What would trigger a change order?

Make the selected scope and any agreed revisions part of the signed contract.

Hypothetical comparison

Bid A is \$9,000 and excludes surface repairs; Bid B is \$10,500 with repairs, protection and disposal included. Ask both bidders to price the same scope before deciding which is less expensive.

Use this worksheet at your next estimate appointment. More free guides: saferpros.com/document-center. • Call 1-800-HIRE-A-PRO (1-800-447-3277).

Sources and further reading

FTC: How to Avoid a Home Improvement Scam - <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-home-improvement-scam>

Educational guidance for U.S. readers. Requirements, permits, licenses, consumer rights and payment rules vary by location and project. Check current local rules and your written agreement. Safer Pros is a referral and project-support platform; participating providers are independent businesses.

Additional notes and next actions
