ABATEMENT — GUIDE

Asbestos removal costs: compare the scope first

Use a dated price reference and a complete written scope to compare quotes.

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A dated reference, not a quote

Bob Vila's article by Brie Greenhalgh and Evelyn Auer, updated December 21, 2023, reports a US national range of $1,192 to $3,240 and an average of $2,201. It lists testing, area size, location, preparation, labor, equipment, cleanup and disposal as cost factors. These are historical US editorial figures. They are not a current local price, a Canadian price or a ceiling for a large project. [Bob Vila]

Do not multiply that average by the number of rooms. The work depends on the material, condition, access and controls. An estimate based on a photo cannot establish whether the material contains asbestos. EPA says identification normally requires a trained professional and laboratory analysis. [EPA home guidance]

Give each bidder the same scope

Send the survey and a marked plan of the work areas. Ask for separate lines for the survey, removal or other treatment, containment, waste handling, transport, disposal and completion assessment. Ask what is included in the quoted quantity. Confirm the currency, taxes, exclusions and quote expiry directly with the bidder.

Ask who pays if concealed material is found. Require a written change process before extra work begins. Keep rebuilding separate from hazard work so you can see whether the quote includes replacement finishes.

Compare evidence as well as price

Ask who will perform each task, which agency credentials apply and where they can be checked. Request the insurance information and the proposed completion records. A low quote with no waste route or completion scope is difficult to compare with a complete proposal.

EPA advises a written contract that sets out the work plan and cleanup requirements. It also advises checking training, accreditation and relevant enforcement history. Follow the local agency's requirements when you settle the contract. [EPA home guidance]

Removal is not the automatic answer

EPA explains that undamaged material left undisturbed is unlikely to present a health risk. A professional may consider repair or management in place. Ask how each option fits the future renovation. Do not use a price article to decide whether a material needs removal. [EPA home

guidance]

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. This is the check date, not a claim about publication date.

- Bob Vila, accessed 2026-11-10.
- EPA home guidance, accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does this guide replace a project assessment?

No. Confirm the scope and current requirements with the responsible authority and a qualified professional.