

The Estimate Worksheet

I have created a worksheet called the "Estimate Worksheet." You can download it as a PDF.

Here's the link:

Using information from the plan you designed in the Better Homes and Garden software this worksheet will help you figure out just how much you need of many of the necessary materials. Figure 3 shows what the worksheet looks like.

Estimate Worksheet		
Wall Height? 8 or 9 Other _____ (circle one and/or enter height)		
Ceiling area workspace:		
Ceiling area total _____		
Framing	Drywall	Insulation
Siding 6 _____	Siding 6 _____	Siding 6 _____
Frame 3 1/2 _____	Frame 3 1/2 _____	Trim
Interior 4 _____	Interior 4 _____	Door trim 1 side _____
Total above items _____ <small>(Enter this into the Framing calculator)</small>	Interior 4 _____	Door trim 2 sides _____
Soffits _____	Total above items _____ <small>(Enter this into the Drywall calculator)</small>	Windows _____
Electrical	Doors	Heating
Outlets (15 amp) _____	Total # of Doors _____	New Heat runs _____
Switches _____	Cut Down Doors?	Return air runs _____
GFCI _____	Yes No	Existing runs to rework _____
TV outlets _____	How Many? _____	
Phone _____	<small>(Double doors count as two)</small>	
Box Openings _____	Access Panels? _____	
Can Lights (6") _____	Access Doors? _____	
Fluorescent _____		

Figure 3

Wall Height

Beginning at the top and working down the sheet the first item asked for is the wall height. If you have an 8' or less ceiling circle the "8." Over 8' and 9' or less circle the "9." I use 8' as a minimum - no matter what. This is because drywall comes minimally in a 4' X 8' sheet. Even if your ceilings are lower and some of the length will need to be cut (assuming the sheets will be installed vertically) you still need to purchase an 8' sheet.

Ceiling Area Workspace

Next, is the box called "Ceiling area workspace." I use this area to compute how big an area is I am actually finishing. Almost all basements I finish have at least some area left unfinished. I normally do not finish the furnace room and many times we leave a second area unfinished for some storage space.

Here's how to determine your total ceiling area. You will need to know this whether you plan on a drywall ceiling (my recommendation) or a suspended one.

First, from your completed plan a message should have appeared that states in a numerical value the amount of the living area created. That is the total space in your basement. As an aside when you're designing the space include all the full height spaces. I normally do not draw the crawl spaces. Write this number down inside the ceiling work area.

Next using the ruler tool measure the length and width of all the unfinished spaces. If your unfinished spaces are not perfect rectangles get the area of smaller ones to make up the bigger ones. Write these lengths and widths down in the ceiling work area space.

Once you have completed that multiply all the length and width numbers written down to create the total area of unfinished space. This number will then be subtracted from the Living area number you initially wrote down. Once you have arrived at the finished "Ceiling Area Total" write that number down.

Framing, Drywall and Insulation

Generate a materials list from Home Designer by clicking on the "Tools" tab up at the very top toolbar. From the drop down list select "Materials List" then "Calculate from all floors." You should then see a spreadsheet of all the items used in your plan.

Now, from the materials list created by Home Designer you will enter the numbers it gives you for each of the various wall types you used. Remember that the numbers Home Designer gives are linear foot.

Trim

Enter the number of doors that will have trim on one side where shown from your drawing. Do the same for doors with trim on two sides and the windows. Count double doors – such as for a closet as 2 doors.

Electrical

If you have drawn in the electric on your plan write the quantities shown from the materials list in these spaces. You may find symbols you've used that are not shown on this list. No matter, just write those down in the margins. If you are planning on hiring an electrician to do the electrical work, many electricians work on an opening basis. So it is helpful to know how many of each type of fixture, outlet etc. that you have. The "box opening" is for the number of light fixtures you might supply such as a light over a bathroom sink, wall sconce lights or track lights. Any lights my electrician might add in an unfinished area are included in this count as well.

Doors

Add up the number of doors you intend to install and enter it here.

Access panels are small plastic panels I install in drywall ceilings that allow access to any shutoff valves for HVAC, water or gas lines. We also install them over all sewer cleanouts that have the potential of being buried. I use the 6" x 9" panels made by Oatey available in the plumbing isles of the big box Home Improvement stores.

Access doors are small plywood doors we create to generally cover electrical panels and/or phone boxes. As you will be creating these this may not be important to you. It's a separate line item on my quotes.

Heating

Count up how many heat and return runs you plan on installing and enter here.

Now that you have all the information entered into the Estimate Worksheet read on to the next report that will tell you how to your calculate many of the necessary materials.



Basement Design Kit#1

Contains the Basement Ideas book, Home Designer software and Basement Explorer. An excellent deal. Save \$10.00 over buying each item separately.

\$85.00 each