

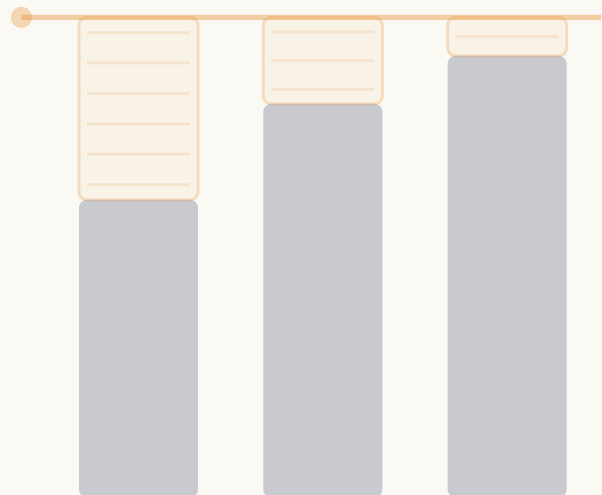


A FREE ARDENT WORKSHOP STARTER

Two-Bid Comparison Worksheet

See what two bids really cost once nothing is left out.

16 scope lines · 2 bids · free, no signup



Why your two quotes are not two prices

Two contractors quote the same renovation and hand you two different numbers. Until you check what each quote actually covers, you cannot tell whether they are two prices for the same job.

This worksheet rebuilds each bid onto the same 16 scope lines first - adding back what it excludes, at your own cost, and the shortfall wherever an allowance falls short of what you actually plan to spend - and only then compares the totals. It is the paid Contractor-Choice Decision Helper's normalization engine, sliced down to two bids and no scoring.

The five states

State	What it means	What this worksheet does with it
Included	Priced in this bid.	Nothing - it is already in the headline price.
Excluded	The quote says this is not included, or lists it as an exclusion.	Adds your own cost to buy it separately.
Allowance	A placeholder sum stands in for a selection you have not made yet.	Adds the shortfall wherever your actual selection costs more than the allowance.
Unclear	The quote does not say either way.	Adds nothing to this worksheet's total - flag it and ask. The full workbook turns every unclear line into an exposure total.
n/a	Not part of your job at all.	Nothing, and it is not worth a question.

A BLANK IS NOT UNCLEAR

A status left empty adds nothing to the comparable total, exactly as Included does. If the quote does not say, mark the line Unclear rather than leaving it blank.

Print this, and mark it up

Mark each line as you read the written quotes, then transfer what you marked into the spreadsheet. Lines marked (!) are the classic exclusion or allowance traps - the ones most worth reading twice.

Scope line	I E A U N	Allowance \$	Your cost
Building permit and inspection fees (!)	I E A U N		
Temporary utilities and site facilities (!)	I E A U N		
Dumpster, hauling and debris disposal (!)	I E A U N		
Dust protection and daily cleanup (!)	I E A U N		
Structural engineering review and stamp (!)	I E A U N		
Unforeseen-condition work behind walls (!)	I E A U N		
Plumbing fixtures supply (!)	I E A U N		
Lighting fixtures supply (!)	I E A U N		
Tile and flooring material (!)	I E A U N		
Painting labor and materials (!)	I E A U N		
Cabinet and counter selections (!)	I E A U N		
Appliance supply (!)	I E A U N		
Final cleaning (!)	I E A U N		
Punch-list return visits (!)	I E A U N		
Design and architectural drawings	I E A U N		
Site survey and existing conditions check	I E A U N		

The arithmetic, on both bids

Bid A - lowest quote quotes \$52,400. Bid B quotes \$63,900 - \$11,500 more. Add back what each one excludes and each allowance shortfall, and the order changes.

Bid	Quoted	Excludes	Allowance gap	Comparable
Bid A - lowest quote	\$52,400	\$13,150	\$6,000	\$71,550
Bid B	\$63,900	\$3,700	\$300	\$67,900

Bid A - lowest quote costs \$3,650 more, once like-for-like, than Bid B - the reverse of what the two headline prices alone suggest. Bid A - lowest quote is named for having the lowest quote, and it does not finish with the lower comparable total. The order the bids arrive in is not the order they finish in, and that reversal is the whole reason this method exists.

Two bids are the beginning, not the whole decision

Two bids and 16 scope lines are enough to see the mechanism work. They are not enough to run a real renovation decision on.

WHAT THE FULL WORKBOOK ADDS

The full **Contractor-Choice Decision Helper** compares up to five bids across all 46 scope lines, then scores each bid on nine weighted criteria - with the Cost & Value score calculated from the comparable total, never the headline price. It adds an exposure block for what is still unpriced, a Gaps & Questions tab generated from your ledger, and a native Google Sheets copy. [Get the full Contractor-Choice Decision Helper >](#)

See the full range at ardentworkshop.com.

The two example bids and every dollar figure in this worksheet are fictional and illustrative. This is a decision-making and planning tool, not legal, financial, or construction advice, and it does not verify anyone's license or insurance. Deposit limits and licensing requirements vary by state - check what applies where you live before you sign or pay anything.

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