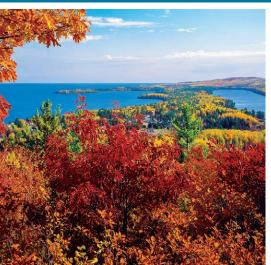


# ASSESSOR'S MANUAL

# **VOLUME I RESIDENTIAL**







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# Michigan State Tax Commission

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855 (Rev. 1-03)



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#### Volume I of the 2014 Assessor's Manual

Enclosed is the 2014 edition of Volume I of the *Assessor's Manual*. Many improvements have been added since the 2003 edition based, in large part, upon suggestions and observations received from users of the manual. In addition to updating the cost schedules, the following are some significant changes made to Volume I of the *Assessor's Manual*:

Additional major components added to the Residential Single-Family section include:

1. Expanding the solar room and greenhouse costs.

Additional major components add to the Log Home Section include:

1. Expanding the low-cost recreation cabin costs.

Farm occupancies Dairies and Milking Parlors have been combined into one occupancy Milking Parlors (Dairies).

#### Instructions for inserting the tabs into the new pages

TAB NAME	INSERT	BEFORE PAGE
Instructions		1
Class D		27
Class CD		43
Class C		59
Class BC		75
Class B		91
Class A		107
Mobile/Manufactured		123
Log Homes/A-Frames		141
Town Houses/Duplexes		163
Unit-in-Place		185
Agricultural		218
County Multipliers		284
Glossary		286

INTRODUCTION

General Introduction	1
General Procedures	2
Square Foot Cost Example	4
Residential Pricing Examples	7
How To Determine Class Of Construction	14
Guide To Selecting Story Height	16
Bi-level Vs Raised Ranch	18
Tri-level	19
Guide to the Calculation of Ground Area: Living Area and Wall Area	20
Depreciation	22 23
Depreciation Table for Residences (All Classes)	24
Percentage Breakdown of Base Costs	25
	20
SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED SECTION	
Class D	
Specifications	27
Photographs and Line Drawing	28
Square Foot Costs	30
Adjustments and Additions	38
Class CD	
Specifications	43
Photographs and Line Drawing	44
Square Foot Costs	46
Adjustments and Additions	54
Class C	
Specifications	59
Photographs and Line Drawing	60
Square Foot Costs	62
Adjustments and Additions	70
Class BC	
Specifications	75
Photographs and Line Drawing	76
Square Foot Costs	78
Adjustments and Additions	86
Oleve P	
Class B	
Specifications	91
Photographs and Line Drawing	92
Square Foot Costs	94
Adjustments and Additions	102
Class A	
Specifications	107
Photographs and Line Drawing	108
Square Foot Costs	110
Adjustments and Additions	118

#### MOBILE/MANUFACTURED HOUSING SECTION

Introduction	123
Low Quality	
General Description	124
Photographs	124
Component Descriptions	124
Square Foot Costs	125
Adjustments	125
Fair Quality	
General Description	126
Photographs	126
Component Descriptions	126
Square Foot Costs	127
Adjustments	127
7 agostiona	121
Average Quality	
General Description	128
Photographs	128
Component Descriptions	128
Square Foot Costs	129
Adjustments	129
Good Quality	
General Description	130
Photographs	130
Component Descriptions	130
Square Foot Costs	131
	101
Adjustments	131
Adjustments  Very Good Quality	
Very Good Quality	131
Very Good Quality General Description	131 132
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs	131 132 132
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions	131 132 132 132
Very Good Quality  General Description  Photographs  Component Descriptions  Square Foot Costs	131 132 132 132 133
Very Good Quality  General Description  Photographs  Component Descriptions  Square Foot Costs  Adjustments	131 132 132 132 133
Very Good Quality  General Description  Photographs  Component Descriptions  Square Foot Costs  Adjustments  Excellent Quality	131 132 132 132 133 133
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Excellent Quality General Description	131 132 132 133 133
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Excellent Quality General Description Photographs	131 132 132 133 133 134
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Excellent Quality General Description Photographs Component Description	131 132 132 133 133 134 134 134
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Excellent Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs	131 132 132 133 133 134 134 134 135
Very Good Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Excellent Quality General Description Photographs Component Descriptions Square Foot Costs Adjustments  Adjustments	131 132 132 133 133 134 134 134 135

#### LOG HOMES/A-FRAMES SECTION

General Introduction	141
Log Homes Class B	
General Description	142
Photographs	142
Component Descriptions	142
Square Foot Costs	143
Adjustments and Additions	143
Log Homes Class BC	
General Description	146
Photographs	146
Component Descriptions	146
Square Foot Costs	147
Adjustments and Additions	147
Log Homes Class C	
General Description	150
Photographs	150
Component Descriptions	150
Square Foot Costs	151
Adjustments and Additions	151
Log Homes Class CD	
General Description	154
Photographs	154
Component Descriptions	154
Square Foot Costs	155
Adjustments and Additions	155
Depreciation Table For Log Homes (All Classes)	158
Square Foot Example	159
A-frame Cabins	
Description	160
Square Foot Costs	160
Additions	160
Low-cost Recreation Cabins	
Description	161
Square Foot Costs	161
Additions	161

TOWN HOUSES/DUPLEXES SECTION	
Introduction	163
Definitions	163
Five Different Classes	163
Photographs	163
Pricing Example	163
Class CD	
General Description	164
Photographs	164
Component Descriptions	164
Square Foot Costs	165
Adjustments and Additions	166
Class C	
General Description	168
Photographs	168
Component Descriptions	168
Square Foot Costs	169
Adjustments and Additions	170
Class BC	
General Description	172
Photographs	172
Component Descriptions	172
Square Foot Costs	173
Adjustments and Additions	174
Class B	
General Description	176
Photographs	176
Component Descriptions	176
Square Foot Costs	177
Adjustments and Additions	178
Class A	
General Description	180
Photographs	180
Component Descriptions	180
Square Foot Costs	181
Adjustments and Additions	182
Square Foot Example	184
UNIT-IN-PLACE SECTION	
Unit-in-Place Instructions	185
Unit-in-Place Example	186
Unit-in-Place Costs	188

#### **FARM AND AGRICULTURAL SECTION**

Glossary of Terms	286
GLOSSARY SECTION	204
COUNTY MULTIPLIER SECTION  County Multipliers	284
COUNTY MULTIPLIER SECTION	200
Farm Building Depreciation Schedule	283
Liquid Manure Tanks	282
Slurry Tanks	282
Windmills	282
Well Jet Systems	282
Vertical Turbine Pumps	282
Manure and Water Management Systems	282
Grain Tanks and Corrugated Metal Bins	281
Grain Bins and Feed Tanks	280
Silos	279
Bunk Feeders	278
Feed Lot Yard Improvements	278
Horizontal Silos	277
Corn Cribs	277
Labor Dormitories (Bunk Houses)	275
Migrant (Transient) Labor Cabins	275
Fruit/Vegetable Buildings – Environmental	273
Potato Storage	273
Farm Cold Storage Buildings	271
Fruit Packing Barns	271
Seed Processing Storage	271
Shade Houses	269
Greenhouses	269
Bulk Fertilizer Storage	267
Bag Fertilizer Storage	267
Corn Crib Buildings	267
Farm Utility/Grain Storage Buildings	267
Toolshed Buildings	265
Lean-tos	265
Farm Utility Buildings	265
Arch-rib (Quonset) Utility Buildings	263
Farm Implement Sheds	263
Arch-rib (Quonset) Farm Implement Buildings	261
Farm Implement Buildings and Shelters	261
Turkey Barns	257
Poultry Houses, Floor Operations, Breeder and Broiler	255
Poultry Houses, Cage Operations, Enclosed and Screened	253
Arenas and Equestrian Lean-tos	251
Stables and High-value (Estate) Stables	249
Individual Livestock Shelters	247
Hog and Modified Hog Sheds	247
Hog Houses/Farrowing and Finishing Barns	245
Hog Houses/Nursery and Breeding/Gestation Barns	243
Feeder Barns (Cattle Sheds)	239
Farm Utility Storage and Loafing Sheds	239
Sheep Barns and Sheds	237
Milking Parlors (Dairies) and Milk Houses	235
Commodity Barns, Hay, Free-stall and Sun Shelters	233
Barns, General Purpose, Special Purpose, Confinement and Bank	225
Pricing Card Example	222
Farm Buildings, General Description	219
Sectional Table of Contents	218

#### MICHIGAN RESIDENTIAL ASSESSOR'S MANUAL

#### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

The Michigan Residential Assessor's Manual is used for estimating reproduction costs for single-family residences. The cost sections in the manual encompass both site-built and manufactured housing, with supplemental land improvement, unit-in-place and farm/agricultural building costs. Other sections of the manual include pricing of log homes, A-frames, townhouses and duplexes.

Depreciation schedules for the various residences, and instructional examples showing the Square Foot Cost Method step by step are also included.

County Multipliers have been provided and will be updated each year. These multipliers will bring the costs current and localize them to a particular county.

This manual offers two complete methods for estimating total reproduction costs: The Square Foot Cost Method, and the Unit-in-Place Method.

#### THE SQUARE FOOT COST METHOD:

This is a simple cost estimating system. Based on the square feet of ground area of the residence, and with a minimal number of adjustments from a basic residence cost table, an accurate reproduction cost can be estimated. Because this cost estimating system requires few calculations, it can significantly reduce the amount of time spent per report.

#### THE UNIT-IN-PLACE METHOD:

For details, please refer to the Unit-in-Place section.

#### THE SQUARE FOOT METHOD:

#### What the Costs Include:

- 1) Plans, specifications, survey, and building permits.
- Cost on interim money during normal period of construction.
- 3) Cost of materials and labor.
- 4) Sales taxes on materials.
- Normal site preparation including trenching, excavating for concrete, backfill and finish grading.
- 6) Contractors' overhead and profit, including workmen's compensation, fire and liability insurance, unemployment insurance, etc.

#### What the Costs Do Not Include:

- Cost of buying or assembling land such as escrow fees, legal fees, property taxes, demolition or rough grading.
- Land planning or preliminary concept and layout for large developments inclusive of developers' overhead and profit.
- 3) Discounts or bonuses paid for financing.
- Marketing costs to create the first occupancy including model and advertising expenses.
- Contingency reserve where a percentage of the total cost is set aside for future events, such as labor strikes, anticipated labor and material increases, etc.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

#### Single-family Residences:

For the convenience of the assessor, single-family detached houses have been divided into six major "Classes" that fit the specifications which he or she is most likely to find in the community. The classes range from the lowest quality level, D, through the highest quality level, A. Below is a listing of the six classes and the most common identification names for each.

Usual Class	Usual Identification
Α	Architect built
В	Custom built
ВС	Standard deluxe
С	Standard
CD	Tract type
D	Economy

To aid in the proper selection of the class of construction, use the Guide "How to Determine Class of Construction" (Page 14). Photographs, specifications and cross sectional sketches appear at the beginning of each class. All required cost data, including building costs and adjustments, are provided for each class. Unit-in-Place costs and land improvements for each class are provided beginning on Page 179.

Further refinement of the schedules above, such as D -10% or B +10% are a practical means of adjusting the base schedule rates to fit some of the endless degree of quality standards found in houses. To standardize the most common adjustments for the schedules used by assessors and appraisers, the following guide may be used. Observance of the suggested increments in the guide will eliminate accidental overlapping such as C -10%.

Typical adjustment increments for a 1-story, 1,000-square-foot brick house with a basement are as follows:

Class by Assessor	Percent of "C"	Class by Assessor	Percent of "C"
A +10%	199%	C +10%	110%
Α	181%	C +5%	105%
A -10%	163%	С	100%
B +10%	156%	C -5%	95%
B +5%	149%	CD	88%
В	142%	D +5%	83%
В -5%	135%	D	79%
BC	126%	D -10%	71%

The percentage relationships may not hold true for all square foot sizes, story heights or types of exterior finish.

#### Other Considerations:

Sometimes a garage (usually a detached garage) does not match the quality of the house. In this instance, the appraiser should select the garage costs from that class schedule which gives the best indicator of cost new.

Since there are many possible dimensions for a residence with a given ground area, and because the wall area depends upon the perimeter of the residence, it is important to know how many linear feet of wall for each increment of ground area are considered "typical". The following table shows the linear feet of wall included as typical in base costs for each increment of ground area:

AREA/LINEAR FOOT TABLE						
Area	Lin. Ft . of Wall	Area	Lin. Ft. of Wall	Area	Lin. Ft. of Wall	
400	82	1900	187	3400	257	
450	86	1950	190	3450	259	
500	90	2000	191	3500	260	
550	94	2050	194	3550	262	
600	99	2100	197	3600	263	
650	102	2150	201	3650	265	
700	107	2200	204	3700	266	
750	111	2250	205	3800	269	
800	115	2300	208	3900	272	
850	118	2350	211	4000	275	
900	122	2400	214	4100	278	
950	126	2450	217	4200	281	
1000	129	2500	218	4300	283	
1050	133	2550	221	4400	286	
1100	137	2600	224	4500	289	
1150	140	2650	227	4600	292	
1200	143	2700	229	4700	294	
1250	147	2750	230	4800	297	
1300	150	2800	233	4900	300	
1350	154	2850	236	5000	303	
1400	156	2900	239	5100	305	
1450	160	2950	241	5200	308	
1500	163	3000	244	5300	311	
1550	167	3050	246	5400	313	
1600	168	3100	248	5500	316	
1650	172	3150	249	5600	318	
1700	175	3200	251	5700	321	
1750	179	3250	252	5800	323	
1800	180	3300	254	5900	326	
1850	183	3350	256	6000	328	

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES . . . Continued**

If your residence has significantly more or less than the typical number of linear feet of wall as shown on the previous page, the Base Square Foot Cost may be adjusted as follows:

Step 1 – From class specifications, list the elements included under "exterior wall" and "windows". These are the elements whose cost is affected by the perimeter of the building.

Step 2 – From the Unit-in-Place costs, determine the cost per linear foot of wall for each of the elements in Step 1. Since elements for exterior wall are per square foot of wall, multiply by the wall height of 8' to attain cost per linear foot of wall.

Step 3 — Add all the costs in Step 2 to obtain the total cost per linear foot of wall.

Step 4 – From the area/linear foot table, determine the difference between the average number of linear feet of wall and the actual number of linear feet.

Step 5 – Multiply the difference in linear feet (Step 4) by the total cost per linear foot of wall (Step 3).

To incorporate the linear foot of wall adjustment with the Square Foot Cost Method steps, do the following:

\*\*\* Complete Square Foot Cost Method steps A through G (Page 4).

\*\*\*Add or deduct the linear foot of wall adjustment (result of Step 5, above) to the Square Foot Cost in G (Page 4).

\*\*\* Continue Square Foot Cost Method Steps H through J.

#### SIZE FOR RATES

The area of the first floor determines the size for selection of Square Foot Costs. A house with 960 square feet on the first floor would be priced from the 950 square foot size cost. The 950 square foot size cost would be multiplied by the actual 960 square foot area. Thus, houses in the size range of 925 to 974 square feet would have a size for rates of 950. Houses in the size range of 975 to 1024 square feet would have a size for rates of 1000. If more precision is required, interpolation can be used.

In the case of mixed story heights, such as part 1-story and part 2-story, the total first floor area determines the size for rates. For example, assume a house with 500 square feet of 2-story and 500 square feet of 1-story. The total size for rates would be 1000 square feet. The rates to be used are both found under the 1000 square foot size as a 1-story house and as a 2-story house.

The area of 2-story is multiplied by the 2-story rate, and the area of 1-story is multiplied by the 1-story rate to determine the undepreciated reproduction cost of the house.

Areas which are priced from a separate schedule are not to be included as first floor area. (Exception: see the procedure for pricing built-in garages.) Thus, porches, breezeways and garages are excluded from the base costs, but may be added in from the Adjustments and Additions pages.

#### **EXPANDING TABLES**

To estimate replacement costs for residences greater than 3000 square feet for classes C, BC and B, use the following multipliers and apply to the 3000 square foot cost. For class A, apply to the 3600 square foot cost.

Area (Sq. Ft.) 3100 3200	Class C Multiplier .9970 .9940	Class BC Multiplier .9969 .9945	Class B Multiplier .9976 .9958	Class A Multiplier
3300	.9910	.9921	.9939	
3400	.9880	.9898	.9920	
3500	.9850	.9874	.9901	
3600	.9820	.9850	.9883	
3700	.9790	.9826	.9864	.9992
3800	.9760	.9803	.9845	.9973
3900	.9730	.9779	.9826	.9955
4000	.9700	.9755	.9808	.9937
4100	.9670	.9731	.9789	.9918
4200	.9640	.9708	.9770	.9900
4300	.9610	.9684	.9751	.9882
4400	.9580	.9660	.9733	.9863
4500	.9550	.9636	.9714	.9845
4600	.9520	.9613	.9695	.9827
4700	.9490	.9589	.9676	.9808
4800	.9460	.9565	.9658	.9790
4900	.9433	.9538	.9630	.9762
5000	.9409	.9514	.9606	.9738
5100	.9387	.9491	.9583	.9714
5200	.9367	.9471	.9563	.9694
5300	.9348	.9452	.9544	.9674
5400	.9330	.9434	.9526	.9656
5500	.9313	.9416	.9508	.9638
5600	.9295	.9398	.9489	.9619
5700	.9277	.9380	.9471	.9600
5800	.9259	.9361	.9452	.9582
5900	.9243	.9345	.9436	.9565
6000	.9228	.9331	.9421	.9550

#### **OVERHANGS**

Overhangs can be priced from the overhang schedules in the "Adjustments and Additions" sections of each class. These overhang prices are based on the typical "size for rates" for the various classes. If more precision is required, the one-story overhang rate can be estimated by deducting the 1 story rate from the 2-story rate at the desired "size for rates". A 3/4- and 1/2-story overhang can be estimated using a similar procedure.

When the overhang schedule is used to price living area over a garage, which includes a variation from a gas-fired, forced-air heating system (such as the presence of air conditioning), the variation must be priced as a dollar adjustment from the "Adjustments and Additions" section.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES . . . Continued**

#### **BAY WINDOWS**

A bay window which extends down to the ground level and includes a foundation should be priced as part of living area and included with size for rates.

A bay window which extends down to the floor level but does not include a foundation should be priced as an overhang, and is not included with the size for rates.

A bay window which does not extend down to the floor level should be considered when determining the class and should not be priced separately.

#### **BUILT-IN GARAGES**

A built-in garage is a garage which is part of the main structure of a residence, takes up area which one would usually expect to be first floor living area, and has living area above.

A built-in garage should be priced as an attached garage using the normal adjustments for interior finish and common walls. However, the area of the built-in garage should be included as part of the size for rates to avoid overpricing the house. Living area above a garage should be priced from the overhang schedule.

# WALL-HEIGHT ADJUSTMENTS (VAULTED CEILINGS)

In the single-family sections, the base interior wall height is 8 feet for each floor. For each foot of variation, add to or deduct from that portion of the residence *base cost only*, 2% for all masonry exterior walls of residences, including brick and stone veneers, and 1.5% for siding exterior walls.

When measuring wall height, include the height of the sidewalls only. Do not include the distance from the second floor ceiling intersect to the peak of the roof. The following example illustrates the procedure for pricing the vaulted ceiling portion of a 2-story house where the vaulted ceiling portion is actually a 1-story area with walls that are 2 stories high (16 feet). If the house is a class C and has 1500 square feet of 2-story area and 500 square feet of vaulted ceiling area, the pricing would be as follows:

#### **CALCULATION:**

Size for rates = 2000

Exterior = siding

2-story area = 1500 sq. ft. x 156.64

1-story area = 500 sq. ft. x 102.43 x 1.12

The multiplier of 1.12 for the 1-story area is calculated by multiplying the 8 feet of extra wall height in the vaulted ceiling area by 1.5%.

#### SQUARE FOOT COST EXAMPLE

The following instructions are for the example on the next page. This example shows the correct procedures for Selecting a Square Foot Cost, making Adjustments and Additions, Applying a County Multiplier, Applying Depreciation, and Economic Factors.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- (A) Select proper class of construction. Use Class selection, Pages 14 15.
- (B) Select proper story height. Use "Story Height" selection, Pages 16 – 17.
- (C) Turn to the Square Foot Cost pages for the selected class and story height. Select type of exterior wall construction.
- (D) Determine amount of ground area for your residence by referring to "Determining Ground Area", Pages 20 – 21. Determine the size for rates.
- (E) Select the Square Foot Cost amount that corresponds to your choice for exterior wall construction. This figure is your Base Square Foot Rate.

Make the appropriate basement and/or heat adjustments to the base rates and apply the % adjustments if the class is a plus or minus % (e.g. C +5%). % adjustments are not applied to any other adjustments and additions.

- (F) Multiply the area from (D) by the rate from (E) to get the base cost.
- (G) Make other adjustments and additions as necessary.
- (H) Use County Multiplier to localize costs in (G).
- (I) Depreciate the adjusted base by using depreciation tables, Page 23.
- (J) Multiply the result of (I) by the appropriate Economic Condition Factor.

#### SQUARE FOOT COST EXAMPLE

Arriving at a Square Foot Cost, making adjustments, additions, applying County Multipliers, applying depreciation and ECF factors.

Instructions for Steps (A) through (J) are located on adjacent page.

Assume we have a Class C, 10-year-old residence located in Alger County, Michigan, with the following characteristics:

1000 square feet of ground area; 1-1/2 stories; crawl space; frame construction with aluminum siding; forced-hot-water heat; a 1-story, 25-square-foot platform porch; standard municipal sewer and plumbing connections.

#### **STEPS**

- (A) (C) Locate Class C, 1-1/2-story Square Foot Cost page.
- (D) Locate ground area of 1000 square feet under "Frame/ Siding" column.
- (E) Appropriate base Square Foot cost is \$141.85.
- (E) Subtract for crawl space: \$141.85 - \$13.87 = \$127.98
- (E) Adjust base of forced air with ducts to forced-hot-water system. Add \$4.34 per square foot of ground area: \$127.98 + \$4.34 = \$132.32
- (F) & (G) Add for city water and sewer connections \$2,225: \$132.32 x 1000 sq. ft. ground = \$132,320 + \$2,225 = \$134,545
- (G) Add for a 25-square-foot platform porch with a concrete floor: \$20.80 x 25 sq. ft. = \$520 \$134,545 + \$520 = \$135,065

#### **SQUARE FOOT COSTS** CLASS C, 1-1/2 STORY

Ground Area	FRA Siding	ME Brick Veneer	MASONRY Block Walls	BAS Wood Base.	EMENT AD Crawl Space Only	JUST. Slab on Grade Only
900	143.98	150.51	145.28	-1.91	-14.44	-19.21
950	142.88	149.32	144.22	-1.88	-14.14	-18.91
1000	141.85	148.20	143.23	-1.86	-13.87	-18.64
1050	140.87	147.14	142.29	-1.83	-13.62	-18.39
1100	139.94	146.14	141.40	-1.81	-13.38	-18.15

#### **ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS**

CLASS C

HEATING SYSTEMS	1-1/4	1-1/2	1-3/4
Forced-warm-air, without return ducts, deduct Forced-hot-water/steam, add Electric wall heaters, baseboard type, deduct	92 3.63 59	-1.10 4.34 71	-1.29 5.06 82
WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL			

Size for Rates	CPP PLATFORM PORCH	CCP COVERED PORCH	
25	20.80	37.50	
50	17.40	32.05	
75	16.00	30.10	

# SQUARE FOOT COST EXAMPLE (Continued)

(H) Select appropriate County .

Multiplier. The multiplier for frame construction in Alger County is \$135,065 x .95 = \$128,312

# COUNTY MULTIPLIERS FOR 2014 BASE RATES State of Michigan

	R	ESIDENTIAL	ame	
County	Masonry	Siding	Brick Veneer	Farm
Alcona	.97	.96	.96	.96
Alger	.95	(.95)	.95	.93
Allegan	.97	.97	.97	.95
Alpena	.97	.95	.95	.95
Antrim	.97	.96	.96	.95

(I) Use Depreciation table to obtain depreciation %: \$128,312 x .90 = \$115,481

Age	Remaining Condition	Age	Remaining Condition
8	92%	38	62%
9	91%	39	61%
10	90%	40	60%
11	89%	41	59%

(J) Multiply by the Economic Condition Factor (EGF). Assume an ECF of 1.05 for the example. \$115,481 x 1.05 = \$121,255

\$121,255 Total

#### **RESIDENTIAL PRICING EXAMPLES**

On the following six pages are six pricing examples demonstrating the proper use of the residential pricing schedules. Pictures of the houses are included on this sheet to assist the reader in studying those pricing procedures. These pictures are not intended to be used as guides for determining class.





EXAMPLE 1 EXAMPLE 4



**EXAMPLE 2** 



**EXAMPLE 3** 





EXAMPLE 5 EXAMPLE 6

Pricing Example #1	•	• •	•		Handand S.T.C.	Procedure is to draw	Plan of house with the	Count of Street Side	TOTAL AND POSSOR			•	•					DEPRECIATED							190,400		000	4,413						5 202	(100,010			* observed condition of grage: 35%
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### **HOW TO DETERMINE CLASS OF CONSTRUCTION**

	Class D	Class CD	Class C
	Class D Economy	Class CD Tract Type	Class C Standard
	Constructed with cost as the primary determining factor. Materials and workmanship may or may not meet Federal or local building codes. Basement, if present, of minimum head room.	Constructed with materials and workmanship meeting minimum Federal and local building codes. Mass produced from standard plans, or prefabricated. The primary determining characteristic is that the residence is usually found among others of same design or with minor exterior modifications.	Construction with average- quality materials and work- manship from stock-type plans with little or no archi- tectural change. Some inter- ior and exterior aesthetic features available as stock items. Built-ins few and of average quality. Interior sur- faces drywall.
Exterior Walls			
Height	8 feet	8 feet	8 feet
Sheathing	1/2" insulation board	1/2" insulation board	1/2" insulation board
Insulation	3-1/2" batt	3-1/2" batt	3-1/2" batt
Interior	3/8" drywall	3/8" drywall	1/2" drywall
Roof	210# asphalt shingles	235# asphalt shingles	235# asphalt shingles
	1/2" oriented strand board	1/2" oriented strand board	1/2" plywood
	2" x 4" truss, 24" o.c.	2" x 4" truss, 24" o.c.	2" x 6" rafters, 16" o.c.
Interior Partitions			
Partition height	8 feet	8 feet	8 feet
Partition surface	3/8" drywall	3/8" drywall	3/8" drywall
Trim	Softwood	Softwood	Softwood
Floor finish	Softwood and linoleum or carpet and pad and linoleum	Softwood and vinyl, carpet and pad and vinyl sheets	Carpet and pad with under- layment and vinyl sheet
Basement walls	10 course, 8" concrete block	10 course, 8" concrete block	11 course, 8" concrete block
Basement floors			
Concrete	3" floor	3-1/2" floor	4" floor
Base	3" gravel base	4" gravel base	4" gravel base
Floor construction			
Subfloor	1/2" plywood	1/2" plywood	3/4" plywood
Joists	2" x 8", 16" o.c.	2" x 8", 16" o.c.	2" x 10", 16" o.c.

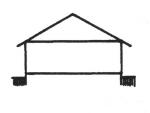
### **HOW TO DETERMINE CLASS OF CONSTRUCTION**

Class BC Standard Deluxe	Class B Custom	Class A Class	
Constructed with average- quality materials and work- manship using modified stock- type plans. Built-ins of aver- age to better than average quality. Some distinguishing interior and exterior qualities for individuality. Interior surfaces plaster.	Constructed with good-quality materials and workmanship from custom-made plans and specifications. Some builtins and special interior and exterior features. Interior surfaces plaster. Roof with asphalt shingles.	Constructed with excellent- quality materials and work- manship. Includes many built- ins and special interior and exterior features. Interior wall surfaces are plaster. Roof with better than average shingles.	
			Exterior Walls
8 feet	8 feet	8 feet	Height
25/32" insulation board	5/32" insulation board	25/32" insulation board	Sheathing
3-1/2" batt	3-1/2" batt	6" batt	Insulation
Plaster on 1/2" drywall	Plaster on 5/8" drywall	Plaster on 5/8" drywall	Interior
290# asphalt shingles	290# asphalt shingles	290# asphalt shingles	Roof
5/8" oriented strand board	5/8" plywood	5/8" plywood	
2" x 6" rafters, 16" o.c.	2" x 8" rafters, 16" o.c.	2" x 8" rafters, 16" o.c.	
			Interior Partitions
8 feet	8 feet	8 feet	Partition height
Plaster on 1/2" drywall	Plaster on 5/8" drywall	Plaster on 5/8" drywall	Partition surface
Hardwood	Hardwood	Hardwood	Trim
Carpet and pad, hardwood, vinyl tile, ceramic tile	Carpet and pad, hardwood vinyl tile, ceramic tile	Carpet and pad, hardwood vinyl tile, ceramic tile, slate	Floor finish
11 course	12" reinforced concrete block	12" reinforced concrete block	Basement walls
12" reinforced concrete block			Basement floors
4" floor	4" floor	4" floor	Concrete
4" gravel base	4" gravel base	4" gravel base	Base
			Floor construction
3/4" plywood	3/4" plywood	3/4" plywood	Subfloor
2" x 10", 16" o.c.	2" x 12", 16" o.c.	2" x 12", 16" o.c.	Joists

#### **GUIDE TO SELECTING STORY HEIGHT**

#### 1-Story

A 1-story residence has no attic and one floor of living area at or near grade level.



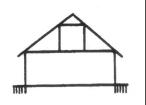
#### 1+ -Story

A 1-story residence with an unfinished attic (having a ceiling height of at least 7 feet) with a floor and an area approximating 25% of that of the first floor.



#### 1-1/4-Story

A 1-story residence with a finished attic and an attic area (where the ceiling height is at least 7 feet) approximately 25% of that of the first floor.



#### 1-1/2-Story

A 1-story residence with a finished attic and an attic area (where the ceiling height is at least 7 feet) approximating 50% of that of the first floor. If the attic is unfinished, use 1-1/4-Story.





#### **GARAGE TYPES**



#### **Attached Garage**

Attached garage, a structure for automobiles, has one or two walls in common with the residence.



#### **Detached Garage**

Detached garage is free-standing, separate from the residence.



#### Carport

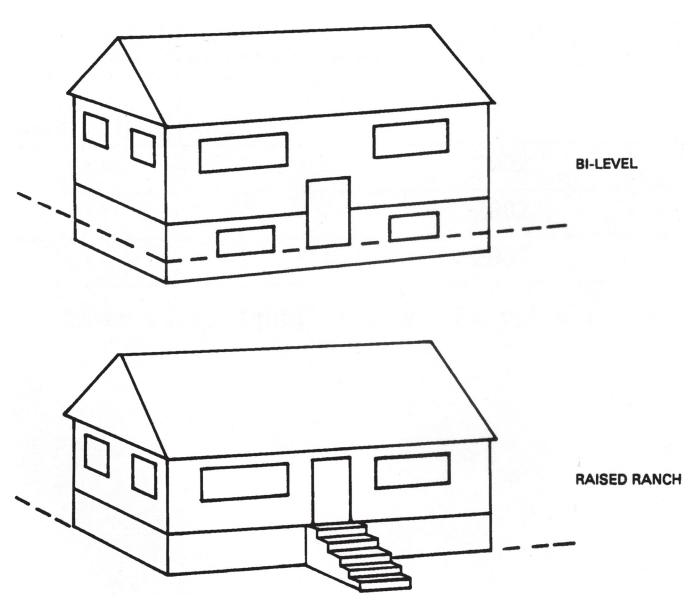
A roofed cover for automobiles, usually attached to residence and either open or enclosed by one or two walls.

# 1-3/4-Story 2-Story **Bi-Level** Tri-Level A 1-story residence with a A 2-story residence has two A bi-level residence typically A tri-level residence has three finished area (where the floors of living area, one at has a lower or ground level 4 levels of living area; one 4 feet ceiling height is at least 7 grade and one above grade, feet below grade and an below grade, one at grade, feet) approximating 75% of both with full ceiling heights. upper level 4 to 5 feet above and one 4 feet above grade, that of the first floor. If the attic grade, both with full ceiling all with full ceiling heights. heights. Entry is at grade is unfinished, use 1-1/4-story. The pricing schedules include level. Full-size windows in a basement in the base rates the lower level make the area for the level at grade. suitable for a family room or a bedroom. Typically the lower level is 80% finished, allowing an unfinished area for utility and mechanical needs. Bilevels are often located on a sloping lot so the lower level is partially exposed. Bi-levels have no basements.

#### **BI-LEVEL VS RAISED RANCH**

The bi-level residence is a two-level structure typically having its lower level 4 feet below grade and its upper level 4 to 5 feet above grade. Two characteristics of the bi-level residence are the split-foyer entry and the fact that the lower level includes required elements of living area, those usually being the living/dining area or bedrooms. The bi-level should be distinguished from the raised ranch, which is merely a 1-story plus

basement with basement walls partially exposed. The raised ranch typically has its entrance at the upper level, and the upper level contains all the required elements of the living area, those being living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom and bedrooms. The raised ranch should be priced as a 1-story plus basement with additions for walk-out basement, basement garage and basement finish as needed.



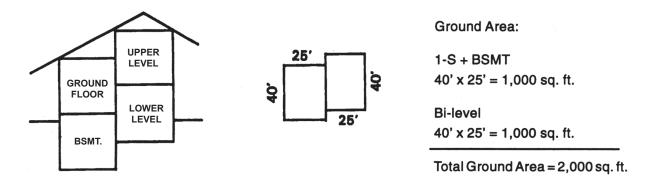
The bi-level schedules assume that the lower level is 80% finished. If the lower level is completely unfinished, price as a 1-story with basement. If the lower level is completely finished, price as a 2-story

on a slab. For finished levels of 20%, 40% and 60%, adjust the base rate by the amount listed under "Lower Level Finish" located on the Square Foot cost page.

#### TRI-LEVEL

The tri-level is a house which has living area on three different levels. The tri-level can be thought of as a combination of a bi-level and a 1-story structure.

The tri-level schedule assumes that the ground area of the bi-level and the 1-story sections of the house are equal in size as depicted in the sketch below.

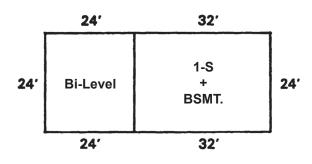


The square foot rates are applied to the total ground area, which in the case of the example above is 2,000 sq. ft. The basement adjustment for the 1-story section must be applied to the total ground area, as the rates have already been adjusted for the fact that

only 1/2 of the house would need a basement adjustment. A tri-level with an equal split between the 1-story and bi-level sections has been included as one of the pricing examples in this chapter.

If the ground area of the tri-level is not approximately equally split between the 1-story and bi-level sections, the tri-level pricing schedule cannot be used. In this situation, the bi-level section should be priced separately from the bi-level schedule, and the 1-story section should be priced separately as a 1-story plus

basement, crawl space or slab as the facts dictate. The size for rates is determined from the combined ground area of the 1-story and bi-level sections. The resulting answer must then be increased by 8% to reflect the extra cost built into a tri-level house. Below is an example of this pricing procedure.



Ground Area:

1-S + BSMT 24' x 32' = 768 sq. ft.

Bi-level 24' x 24' = 576 sq. ft.

Total Ground Area = 1,344 sq. ft. Size for Rates = 1,350 sq. ft.

As an example, the Class C rates for the example above follow:

1-S + BSMT 768' x \$108.67 = \$83,459 Bi-level 576' x \$136.39 = \$78,561 Total \$162,020 Add 8% x 1.08 \$174.982

# GUIDE TO THE CALCULATION OF GROUND AREA LIVING AREA AND WALL AREA

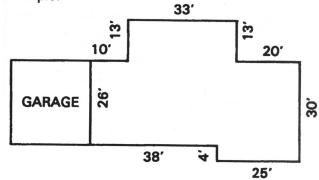
#### Calculation of Ground Area

Ground area is defined as the area computed from the exterior dimensions of the ground floor.

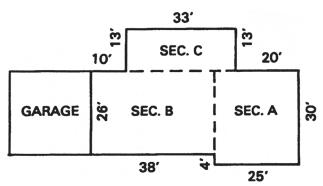
Step 1 – To calculate ground area, measure all exterior dimensions of the ground floor only, excluding garage, and construct a diagram showing these measurements.

\*Note: Measurements should be made at a place on the exterior wall where there is exterior finish, NOT at the ground level where there is no exterior finish on the wall. Do not add to the size of a house where owner has installed new siding over old siding.

#### Example:



Step 2 – Divide the diagram of the ground floor into sections approximating squares or rectangles.



Step 3 – Calculate the area of each square and/or rectangle.

Section A:  $30' \times 25' = 750 \text{ sq.ft.}$ 

Section B:  $38' \times 26' = 988 \text{ sq. ft.}$ 

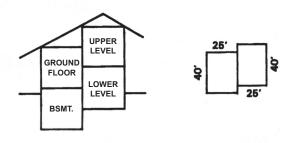
Section C:  $33' \times 13' = 429 \text{ sq. ft.}$ 

Ground Area = 2,167 sq. ft.

Size for Rates = 2,150 sq.ft.

A tri-level home has its ground floor split into two levels. To compute ground area, add the area of the lower level in the bi-level section and the area of the ground floor in the 1-story section.

#### Example:



**Ground Floor:** 

 $40' \times 25' = 1,000 \text{ sq. ft.}$ 

Lower Level:

 $40' \times 25' = 1,000 \text{ sq. ft.}$ 

Ground Area = 2,000 sq. ft.

Size for Rates = 2,000 sq. ft.

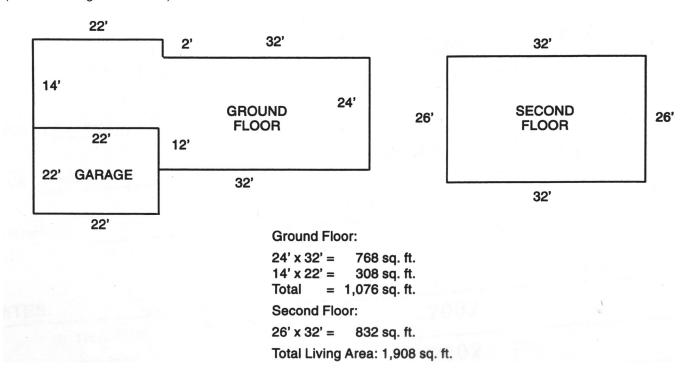
#### **Calculation of Living Area**

Living area is defined as the area computed using the exterior dimensions of the entire living area of the residence. Minimum ceiling height of living area is 7 feet.

In a 1-story house, living area and ground area are equal, and calculations are the same as those for ground area. To compute living area in a residence other than 1-story, add the area of the upper floors to the total ground area.

Example:

(**Note:** drawing not to scale)



#### **CALCULATION OF EXTERIOR WALL AREA**

Measure the number of linear feet and the height of all exterior walls, including walls separating attached garage from living area and excluding basement walls and foundation walls.

Multiply wall length by wall height to compute wall area.

**Example:** Calculate wall area of the 2-story residence described above.

Ground floor: 32' + 24' + 32' + 2' + 22' + 14' + 22' + 12' = 160 L.F. x 8' high = 1,280 sq. ft. of wall area

Second floor: 32' + 26' + 32' + 26' = 116 L.F. x 8' high = 928 sq. ft. of wall area

**TOTAL:** 1,280 + 928 = 2,208 sq. ft. wall area

#### **DEPRECIATION**

In the cost approach for most structures, the appraiser must deduct depreciation from the estimate of cost new, because an old or used property is usually less valuable than a similar new one. Appraisal depreciation is defined as a loss in value resulting from physical deterioration, functional obsolescence and economic obsolescence. These three categories of depreciation are defined in the appraisal theory section of Volume III of the manual. However, there are many times when the appraiser will estimate total depreciation directly, instead of, or as a check against, the results found by estimating each category separately.

Rating can be done during inspection using these definitions and the corresponding percent conditions.

These are the same terms prospective buyers would use when inspecting a home. Sound valuation theory presupposes the existence of prospective buyers with intelligence enough to compare the advantages and disadvantages of competing properties, then rate each one according to its physical condition and degree of desirability and usefulness.

An estimate of total normal depreciation, expressed as a percent of the cost of reproduction or replacement new, can be made if the appraiser:

- rates the physical condition of the building and its degree of desirability and usefulness, using the system described below as a guide.
- uses this rating as a check on the remaining condition for the building's age indicated by the depreciation table on the following page.

Rating	Description	Corresponding Percent Condition	Mid Point
Excellent	Building is in perfect condition, very attractive and highly desirable.	95 – 100%	98%
Very good	Slight evidence of deterioration, still attractive and quite desirable.	85 – 94%	90%
Good	Minor deterioration visible, slightly less attractive and desirable, but useful.	75 – 84%	80%
Average	Normal wear and tear is apparent, average attractiveness and desirability.	60 – 74%	67%
Fair	Marked deterioration, rather unattractive and undesirable but still quite useful.	45 – 59%	52%
Poor	Definite deterioration is obvious, definitely undesirable and barely usable.	30 – 44%	37%
Very poor	Condition approaches unsoundness, extremely undesirable and barely usable.	20 – 29%	25%
Unsound	Building is definitely unsound and practically unfit for use.	0 – 19%	10%

# DEPRECIATION TABLE FOR RESIDENCES (All Classes)

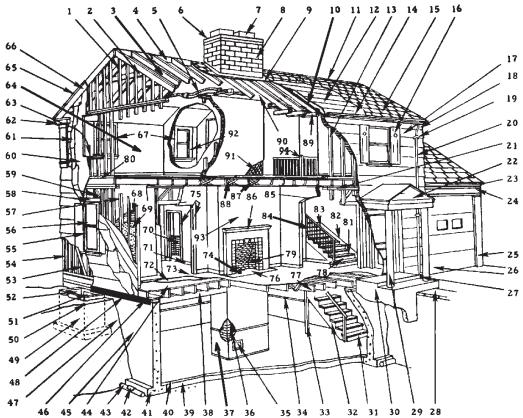
Age	Remaining Condition	Age	Remaining Condition	
1	99%	31	69%	
2	98%	32	68%	
3	97%	33	67%	
4	96%	34	66%	
5	95%	35	65%	
6	94%	36	64%	
7	93%	37	63%	
8	92%	38	62%	
9	91%	39	61%	
10	90%	40	60%	
11	89%	41	59%	
12	88%	42	58%	
13	87%	43	57%	
14	86%	44	56%	
15	85%	45	55%	
16	84%	46	54%	
17	83%	47	53%	
18	82%	48	52%	
19	81%	49	51%	
20	80%	50	50%	
21	79%	51	49%	
22	78%	52	48%	
23	77%	53	47%	
24	76%	54	46%	
25	75%	55	45%	
26	74%	Older	45%	
27	73%			
28	72%		on will be held at 45% as long	
29	71%	as the residence is habitable.		
30	70%			

Age = Tax Year - date of construction

**Example:** A 2014 assessment is being figured for a building constructed in 1994. The age is 20 years.

The appraiser is to recognize exceptional maintenance, remodeling, replacements and additions in adjusting the % condition from that listed in this table to the actual observed condition. Exceptionally poor maintenance is also to be recognized.

#### VIEW OF RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION



- 44 42 41 1. Gable stud 2. Collar beam 3. Ceiling joist 4. Ridgeboard 5. Cap/plate 6. Chimney wash 7. Chimney pot 8. Chimney 9. Chimney flashing 10. Insulation 11. Ridge 12. Roof sheathing 13. Stud 14. Eave trough or gutter 15. Roofing 16. Shutter
- 17. Horizontal board siding 18. Downspout or leader gooseneck 19. Downspout or leader
- strap 20. Downspout leader or
- conductor
- 21. Double plate
- 22. Entrance canopy
- 23. Garage cornice
- 24. Frieze
- 25. Dooriamb
- 26. Garage door
- 27. Entrance step
- 28. Sidewalk
- 29. Entrance post platform
- 30. Entrance platform

- 31. Basement stair riser
- 32. Stair stringer 33. Girder post
- 34. Chair rail
- 35. Cleanout door
- 36. Masonry chimney
- 37. Plaster over masonry
- 38. Furring strips
- 39. Cinder or gravel fill
- 40. Concrete basement
- 41. Footing for foundation wall
- 42. Filter mat
- 43. Foundation drain tile
- 44. Subflooring
- 45. Foundation wall
- 46. Mudsill
- 47. Backfill
- 48. Termite shield
- 49. Areaway wall
- 50. Grade line
- 51. Basement sash
- 52. Areaway
- 53. Corner brace
- 54. Corner studs
- 55. Window frame 56. Window light
- 57. Wall stud
- 58. Window header
- 59. Window cripple
- 60. Wall sheathing 61. Building paper

- 62. Frieze or barge board
- 63. Rough opening
- 64. Wall finish
- 65. Cornice molding
- 66. Fascia board
- 67. Window casing
- 68. Lath
- 69. Insulation
- 70. Wainscoting
- 71. Baseboard
- 72. Building paper
- 73. Finish floor
- 74. Ash dump
- 75. Door trim
- 76. Fireplace hearth
- 77. Floor joists
- 78. Stair riser
- 79. Fire brick
- 80. Sole plate
- 81. Stair tread
- 82. Finish stringer
- 83. Stair rail
- 84. Balusters
- 85. Plaster arch
- 86. Mantel
- 87. Floor joist
- 88. Bridging
- 89. Lookout/soffit
  - framing
- 90. Attic space
- 91. Metal lath
- 92. Window sash
- 93. Chimney breast
- 94. Newel post

#### PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF BASE COSTS

The following percentages indicate the approximate portion of the total cost of average-quality wood frame houses attributable to each component listed, as derived from an analysis of several groups of residences. Costs of plans and other components are based on several developments containing between five and fifty houses each.

#### **AVERAGE-QUALITY HOUSE**

Plans	
Plan check and permit	
Survey	
Water meter and temporary facilities	
Excavation, forms, concrete and backfill	
Lumber, rough	
Carpenter labor, rough	
Roofing	
Insulation and weatherstrip	
Exterior finish: siding, stucco, masonry veneer	
Interior finish: plaster and drywall	
Sash, doors and shutters	
Lumber, finish	
Carpenter labor, finish	
Hardware, rough	
Hardware, finish	
Cabinets	
Countertops/tile	
Floor covering: hardwood or carpeting	
resilient	
Plumbing	
Shower doors/mirrors/tub enclosure	
Electrical	
Light fixtures	
Built-in appliances	
Heating	
Sheet metal	
Ornamental iron	
Painting	
Sewer connection	
Miscellaneous	
Cleanup	
General contractors' overhead and profit	_
TOTAL	10

The 11.1% listed for general contractors' overhead and profit is the percentage of the total cost. This is the equivalent of 14.8% of the labor, material and subcontract cost, excluding costs of plans, survey, plan check and permit, with a range from 10.2% to 20.8%.