

ProDetail Estimating Database

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ProDetail Estimating Database?

ProDetail Estimating is a comprehensive estimating database system for residential and multi-family homebuilders. ProDetail provides builders' Purchasing and estimating staff with a system to quickly and accurately create estimates that allow the builder to track cost on a "detailed" basis versus "lump sum" basis.

Why do I need to purchase ProDetail Estimating Database?

With today's rapidly changing home market, homebuilders need to know how much material it takes to build a house and also be able to quickly update cost as the labor and material prices rise and fall. The ProDetail Estimating database provides a structured format for quickly and accurately creating detailed itemized estimates.

I already own Sage Timberline® Estimating - is ProDetail Estimating Database another program that I need to purchase?

No, ProDetail is an estimating database that uses Sage Timberline's Precision estimating program.

How big does my company need to be in order to fully utilize the ProDetail Estimating Database?

ProDetail is designed for builders – whether they construct single family starter homes to custom homes to multi family projects – who want to know the details and the itemized cost of their projects.

With most pre-built construction databases on the market today, builders have to spend many weeks and months and much money to modify the pre-built database to meet market conditions. How much set up time does ProDetail Estimating require?

Unlike most pre-built databases, ProDetail allows the builder to start estimating on DAY ONE! With over 90,000+ purchasing items and thousands of formulas, variables, and assemblies, ProDetail is ready to estimate all of your items, from overheads to final cleaning and most everything in between.

ProDetail Estimating has over 90,000 database items. Why does a builder need that many items?

Even though there are many items in ProDetail's database, you only use items that you need today while knowing that if you need to purchase different items tomorrow, next week, or next year, the items are ready for estimation when needed.

With so many items in ProDetail Estimating database, won't the estimators be slowed down having to look up a single item out of a list of 90,000?

No, ProDetail Estimating database's items are categorized by "phases" for easy reference. ProDetail also features "detailed assemblies" that allow plan-specific quantity measurements to be entered, returning the items as required.

How can ProDetail help a residential home builder that has or will be implementing BuilderMT's Workflow Management Suite (WMS)?

ProDetail gives homebuilders the opportunity to purchase materials and labor on a "detailed" basis rather than "lump sum."

- **Current BuilderMT Clients**
For existing users of WMS, the ProDetail Estimating database can be easily merged with your existing Sage Timberline "lump sum" database, thus keeping your existing models and options while taking advantage of the detailed estimating capabilities of ProDetail.
- **Future BuilderMT Clients**
Builders who are looking at purchasing WMS can take advantage of ProDetail's powerful detailed estimating assemblies to quickly create base plan budgets and options.

How quickly can ProDetail's items be exported to BuilderMT?

The ProDetail Estimating database is formatted so that the output is ready to export to WMS. Once ProDetail has been installed to the builder's server, the database can be replicated to WMS.

How can one database work for builders in Florida or Texas while also being used by others in the Midwest or East Coast where construction techniques are very different?

ProDetail Estimating has been constructed with items, variables, formulas and assemblies that are functional in multiple markets. For example, ProDetail contains formulas to estimate "slab on grade foundations" for the Florida builder while also containing formulas for estimating "poured in place basement foundation walls" for other builders.

ProDetail makes estimating a base house plan quick and simple, but what about the time consuming process of creating options?

ProDetail Estimating has a painless system for creating and maintaining many options that most builders do not offer due to time and human resource constraints. ProDetail contains features that make the process of creating repetitive options simple. For example, in a matter of minutes a Purchasing administrator can create up to thirty levels of carpet upgrades for a given room. Another couple of minutes and the Purchasing administrator has created thirty levels of "wood in lieu of carpet" options for the given room, and in another couple of minutes, the data administrator can create thirty levels of "ceramic in lieu of carpet" options for the same given room. A similar process also allow the Purchasing administrator to create upgraded options for cabinet (30", 36" and 42" wall cabinets), shingles, siding, window and much more.

If I have the ability to create "thousands and thousands" of options, isn't that going to result in having to maintain "thousands and thousands" of option specific costs?

No. ProDetail's options consist of "database items" that are not specific to any plan. For example, instead of having a unique lump sum price for every room of every house for every level of carpet upgrade, ProDetail instead creates options using standard parts and pieces i.e. Carpet Level 1, Carpet Level 2 etc. When prices go up or down, the Purchasing manager just needs the cost for the items being sold rather than having to re-price thousands and thousands of "lump sum" items.

Can ProDetail help me process "Custom Option Requests?"

Yes, with ProDetail's dynamic detailed estimating assemblies, estimators create an estimate for "custom option requests" before the option is sold rather than after the sale thus eliminating potential of miscalculating the price thus resulting in lost profits.

What advantages are there of purchasing ProDetail versus having the homebuilder estimators build a database from scratch?

Time, Accuracy and Money!

- Time - Building an estimating database with 20% of the capabilities that ProDetail has would take at least 30+ hours per week for six months to a year if the builder has a staff member with the experience required to build it. Most - if not all - builders do not have the luxury of letting an estimator drop his everyday tasks for six months to a year to build a database.

- Accuracy – The ProDetail Estimating database was constructed by an individual with over 15 years of purchasing, estimating and new homes sales experience. ProDetail was constructed so that estimates cannot only be created quickly, but also accurately so that costly variances can be eliminated.
- Money – ProDetail Estimating allows builders to create quick and accurate estimates of conceptual and final base plans quickly to reduce costly variance while also allowing – in conjunction with WMS – for easy cost management allowing price increases and reductions to be updated rapidly thus minimizing potential margin erosion due to inaccurately priced homes and options.



direct results ::::