

Costs & Budgeting

Ottawa-specific pricing for post-construction cleaning, per-square-foot rates, budgeting strategies, and comparing contractor quotes for cleanup services.

7 Expert Answers from Clean IQ

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What is the cost of emergency next-day post-construction cleaning in Ottawa?

Emergency next-day post-construction cleaning in Ottawa carries a meaningful premium over standard scheduled work, but it is absolutely available in this market — especially during the busy spring and summer construction season when crews are actively working across the city.

What to Expect for Emergency Post-Construction Cleaning Costs in Ottawa

For standard post-construction cleaning in Ottawa, a typical 1,500-square-foot home runs **\$1,200 to \$1,800** for a complete final clean. When you need that same work done on 24 hours' notice or less, expect to pay a **rush premium of 25 to 50 percent** on top of the base rate. That puts emergency next-day cleaning for a comparable home in the range of **\$1,500 to \$2,700**, depending on the scope of work, the day of the week, and how quickly you need the crew on site.

Weekend and holiday emergency calls push costs even higher. Ottawa cleaning contractors working on a Saturday or Sunday for an urgent job often charge an additional **15 to 25 percent** on top of the rush premium, which can bring a full post-construction clean on a Sunday into the **\$2,000 to \$3,200** range for a mid-sized home. If you are calling for emergency service on a statutory holiday — and Ottawa has several clustered around the summer construction peak — some contractors will decline the work entirely, while others charge accordingly.

The reason for these premiums is straightforward. Emergency scheduling means a contractor must either pull a crew from another committed job, pay overtime wages, or scramble to source additional workers on short notice. Post-construction cleaning is physically demanding, equipment-intensive work — crews need to transport **commercial HEPA vacuums, air scrubbers, industrial floor scrubbers, and chemical supplies** to your site. That logistical effort does not compress easily into 24 hours without real cost.

One important Ottawa-specific consideration is the spring rush from April through June. This is when demand for post-construction cleaning spikes sharply as winter-delayed renovation projects complete simultaneously across the city. During this window, emergency availability shrinks considerably, and the rush premium often sits at the higher end of that 40 to 50 percent range. If you are managing a project timeline with an occupancy inspection on the horizon, this seasonal pressure is worth factoring into your planning well in advance.

For practical cost management, be very specific when requesting an emergency quote. Confirm whether the price includes **debris removal and disposal** at Trail Road Landfill, HVAC duct cleaning if construction was done during heating season, window cleaning, and exterior pressure washing if needed. These specialty services each carry their own cost — duct cleaning alone runs **\$400 to \$800** for a typical Ottawa home — and they are sometimes quoted separately from the base cleaning price. Getting three written quotes even on short notice is still worthwhile,

as pricing for emergency work varies considerably between contractors.

Always confirm that any contractor you hire carries WSIB coverage and a minimum of \$2 million in liability insurance before they set foot on your property, even in an urgent situation. This protects you from financial liability if a worker is injured on site.

If you need to find cleaning contractors available for emergency or short-notice work in Ottawa, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com lists local cleaning contractors you can contact directly to check availability and get quotes. Browsing the directory is free, and reaching out to multiple contractors at once is the fastest way to find someone who can meet your timeline.

Q2

Are flat-rate or hourly post-construction cleaning quotes more common in Ottawa?

Both pricing models are used by Ottawa cleaning contractors, and understanding the difference will help you evaluate quotes more confidently and avoid surprises when the bill arrives.

Flat-Rate vs. Hourly Pricing in Ottawa's Post-Construction Cleaning Market

Flat-rate quotes are more common for post-construction cleaning in Ottawa, particularly for complete new builds and major whole-home renovations. Experienced contractors prefer flat-rate pricing for these projects because they have enough historical data on similar homes to estimate scope accurately. A flat-rate quote for a 1,500-square-foot Ottawa home typically runs **\$1,200 to \$1,800 for a full final clean**, and that number is locked in regardless of how long the crew spends on site. For homeowners, this is reassuring — you know your maximum cost upfront and can budget accordingly without worrying about the clock.

Hourly pricing tends to appear more often for **partial renovation cleanups**, such as a single bathroom or kitchen remodel, or for rough cleaning phases where the scope genuinely cannot be predicted until the crew arrives and assesses conditions. Ottawa contractors typically charge **\$35 to \$65 per person per hour** for post-construction cleaning work, with most sending crews of two to four people. A two-person crew at \$50 per hour each running for six hours on a kitchen renovation cleanup would land around \$600 — which is consistent with the \$400 to \$1,500 range you should expect for that type of project.

The challenge with hourly quotes in Ottawa's post-construction market is that **construction dust levels vary enormously by season**. A winter renovation in a home that ran forced-air heat throughout the project will have far more fine particulate embedded in every surface than the same renovation done in summer with windows open.

This makes it genuinely difficult for a contractor to estimate hours without seeing the space, which is one reason some contractors default to hourly pricing rather than risk underquoting a flat rate on a heavily contaminated interior.

A few practical things to watch for when comparing quotes: a flat-rate quote should clearly specify **exactly what is included** — rough clean, final clean, window cleaning, HVAC vent wiping, debris removal, and floor type all affect scope. An hourly quote should specify the crew size, hourly rate per person, and whether travel time is billed. Some Ottawa contractors offer a **hybrid model** where the flat rate covers standard cleaning and hourly rates apply if unexpected conditions — like significant paint overspray or adhesive residue throughout — push the job beyond the original estimate. This is reasonable, but the trigger conditions and additional rates should be spelled out in writing before work begins.

Regardless of which pricing model a contractor uses, always get **a minimum of three written quotes** and make sure each one covers the same scope of work so you are comparing apples to apples. A quote that looks significantly cheaper may simply be excluding debris disposal, duct cleaning, or exterior work that the other quotes include.

If you are ready to start gathering quotes, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists post-construction cleaning contractors serving the Ottawa area. It is a free resource you can browse at your own pace to find contractors to contact directly for estimates.

Q3

What is the price difference between hiring individual cleaners versus a cleaning company in Ottawa?

Hiring individual cleaners versus a cleaning company for post-construction work in Ottawa involves meaningful cost and risk differences that every homeowner should understand before making a decision. The short answer is that individual cleaners typically charge less per hour, but a cleaning company often delivers better value for the full scope of a post-construction project when you factor in equipment, speed, and insurance coverage.

Individual Cleaners vs. Cleaning Companies for Post-Construction Work

Individual cleaners in Ottawa typically charge **\$25 to \$50 per hour** for general cleaning work. However, post-construction cleaning is a specialized category — not standard housekeeping — and experienced individual cleaners who take on post-construction jobs often charge **\$40 to \$65 per hour** to reflect the difficulty and equipment requirements. A solo cleaner working a 2,000-square-foot post-construction job might spend 10 to 14

hours on site, putting your total cost in the range of **\$400 to \$900**. That sounds appealing compared to company rates, but the comparison gets more complicated quickly.

Cleaning companies in Ottawa quote post-construction jobs as flat-rate project prices rather than hourly rates. For a 2,000-square-foot home, a company typically charges **\$1,500 to \$2,500** for a complete final clean. They send a crew of two to four people, complete the job in 6 to 10 hours, and bring commercial-grade equipment including **HEPA vacuums, air scrubbers, and industrial floor scrubbers** that an individual cleaner almost certainly does not own. That equipment difference is critical — post-construction dust contains particles fine enough to pass straight through a standard vacuum and recirculate through your home's air, so HEPA filtration is not optional, it is essential.

The insurance question is where the individual-versus-company comparison becomes most important for Ottawa homeowners. Any contractor working in your home during or after construction should carry **WSIB coverage and a minimum of \$2 million in liability insurance**. Cleaning companies carry this as standard practice. Individual cleaners very often do not. If an uninsured individual cleaner is injured in your home — on a ladder cleaning high windows, for example, or slipping on a wet floor — you as the homeowner may be financially liable for their medical costs and lost income. That risk alone can outweigh any hourly savings.

From a practical standpoint, individual cleaners are most appropriate for **smaller, lighter post-renovation tidying** — a bathroom refresh, a single-room repaint cleanup, or a minor cosmetic renovation. For full post-construction cleans after new builds, major renovations, kitchen or basement overhauls, or any project where drywall work, concrete, or tile installation occurred, a company with proper equipment and crew size will produce a significantly more thorough result in less total time.

Ottawa's winter construction season adds another layer to this decision. The extremely dry indoor air during heating season — often dropping to 15 to 20 percent relative humidity — makes construction dust far more airborne and persistent than in other climates. An individual cleaner without an air scrubber simply cannot address the airborne particulate that settles back onto surfaces for 48 to 72 hours after cleaning. A company running air scrubbers throughout the job captures that suspended dust before it re-contaminates cleaned surfaces.

Always get **at least three written quotes** regardless of which route you choose, and confirm insurance coverage before anyone starts work. You can browse cleaning contractors serving the Ottawa area through the **Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com** — it's a free resource where you can find and contact cleaners directly to compare your options.

How much does post-construction cleaning cost for a new workshop or shed build in Ottawa?

Post-construction cleaning for a new workshop or shed in Ottawa typically costs between \$200 and \$800, depending on the size, construction materials used, and level of finishing work completed. A basic 200-square-foot unfinished shed might only need \$200 to \$350 for debris removal and basic cleaning, while a fully finished 600-square-foot workshop with electrical, insulation, and interior finishing could require \$500 to \$800 for comprehensive cleaning.

Workshop and Shed Cleaning Considerations

The cost varies significantly based on what type of construction dust and debris your project generated. **Basic shed construction** using pre-fabricated components creates minimal fine dust and mainly requires debris removal, sweeping, and basic surface cleaning. **Custom workshop builds** with concrete pads, electrical rough-in, insulation installation, and drywall finishing generate the same fine particulate dust as indoor renovations and require HEPA vacuum cleaning, detailed surface wiping, and air filtration.

Ottawa's extreme winter conditions affect workshop cleaning costs because **construction dust becomes exceptionally fine and persistent** when indoor humidity drops below 20 percent during heating season. If your workshop was built or finished during winter months (November through March), expect cleaning costs to be 15 to 25 percent higher due to the extra time needed to capture airborne particles that settle into every corner and crevice.

Concrete pad cleaning adds \$100 to \$300 to the total cost, especially if the concrete was poured recently and has curing compound residue or construction staining. Pressure washing a new concrete workshop floor requires careful PSI management — too aggressive and you'll damage the surface, too gentle and construction stains won't lift properly. Professional cleaners use 2,000 to 2,500 PSI for cured concrete but may need specialized concrete cleaning products for stubborn mortar or paint stains.

For workshops with electrical installations, **HVAC or ventilation system cleaning** becomes important if dust circulated through fans or heating units during construction. This typically adds \$150 to \$400 to your cleaning bill but prevents months of dust recirculation every time you run workshop equipment.

Timing affects pricing significantly in Ottawa's market. Spring cleaning demand (April through June) drives prices up 10 to 20 percent as winter-delayed projects rush to completion. Fall cleaning (September through November) often offers the best value as contractors prepare for the slower winter season.

Most homeowners can handle basic debris removal and sweeping themselves, but **professional cleaning makes sense** for workshops with electrical systems, finished interiors, or concrete floors that need proper sealing preparation. The specialized equipment required — particularly HEPA vacuums and concrete cleaning tools — typically costs more to rent than hiring a professional for a one-time clean.

For contractor recommendations and quotes specific to your workshop project, you can browse cleaning professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q5

What is the cost of cleaning a newly finished attic conversion in my Ottawa home?

Post-construction cleaning for a newly finished attic conversion in Ottawa typically costs between \$600 and \$1,800, depending on the size and complexity of your conversion. The unique challenges of attic cleaning—including sloped ceilings, limited access, and the fine dust that accumulates in these enclosed spaces during construction—require specialized equipment and techniques that affect pricing.

Attic Conversion Cleaning Specifics

Attic conversions present unique cleaning challenges that drive costs higher than standard room cleaning. The sloped ceilings and tight corners where walls meet the roofline trap construction dust that's difficult to reach with standard equipment. **HEPA vacuuming is absolutely essential** because the confined space means construction dust becomes highly concentrated and airborne particles settle into every crevice. Professional cleaners need specialized extension tools and often scaffolding or ladders to properly clean angled surfaces and skylights that are common in attic conversions.

Ottawa's extreme winter climate significantly impacts attic cleaning costs. If your conversion was completed during heating season, the bone-dry indoor air (often 15-20% humidity) means drywall dust and sawdust became exceptionally fine and pervasive. This dust infiltrates insulation gaps, settles behind knee walls, and gets drawn into any HVAC ducts serving the new space. Many attic conversions require **dedicated duct cleaning at \$300-600 additional cost** because the new ductwork and increased air circulation spreads construction particles throughout your home's entire HVAC system.

Per-square-foot pricing for attic cleaning ranges from \$0.75 to \$2.25 in Ottawa, higher than standard room cleaning due to access challenges. A typical 400-square-foot attic conversion runs \$800-1,200 for complete post-construction cleaning. Larger conversions of 600-800 square feet cost \$1,200-1,800. If your conversion includes a

new bathroom, add \$200-400 for specialized fixture cleaning and grout haze removal from new tile work.

Timing affects your costs significantly. Spring cleaning demand in Ottawa drives prices up 15-25% as winter-delayed projects rush to completion. Summer cleaning is most efficient because lower humidity allows surfaces to dry quickly, but book early as this is peak construction season. **Always get three written quotes** and ensure they specify cleaning of all angled surfaces, skylights, built-in storage areas, and any new electrical fixtures or ceiling fans.

For professional attic conversion cleaning with the specialized equipment and expertise these projects require, you can browse experienced contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q6

How much does a complete three-phase cleaning cost for a 3,500 square foot Ottawa home?

A complete three-phase cleaning for a 3,500 square foot Ottawa home typically costs between \$2,800 and \$5,500, with most homeowners paying around \$3,800 to \$4,200 for the full process. This comprehensive approach involves rough cleaning during construction, progress cleaning between major phases, and final detailed cleaning before occupancy.

Understanding Three-Phase Post-Construction Cleaning

The three-phase approach is the gold standard for new home construction and major renovations in Ottawa. **Phase one is rough cleaning**, performed while trades are still finishing work, focusing on debris removal, bulk dust collection, and maintaining safe working conditions. This phase typically costs \$800 to \$1,400 for a 3,500 square foot home. **Phase two is progress cleaning**, done between major construction milestones to prevent dust and debris accumulation from becoming overwhelming. This intermediate cleaning runs \$600 to \$1,200. **Phase three is final cleaning**, the comprehensive deep clean that prepares the home for occupancy and City of Ottawa inspection, costing \$1,400 to \$2,900.

Ottawa's extreme climate significantly impacts three-phase cleaning costs and timing. Winter construction creates exceptionally fine dust due to indoor humidity dropping to 15-20 percent during heating season. HVAC systems running constantly circulate this particulate throughout the entire home, making duct cleaning essential and adding \$400 to \$800 to your total cost. Spring completion projects face concentrated demand as winter-delayed builds rush to finish, potentially increasing prices by 10-15 percent during peak season from April through June.

The size and complexity of your 3,500 square foot home affects pricing within this range. Homes with cathedral ceilings, multiple bathrooms, extensive millwork, or specialty finishes like natural stone require additional time and specialized cleaning products. **High-end finishes can push costs toward the upper range** because cleaning contractors must use premium, surface-specific products and take extra care to avoid damage. Conversely, simpler finishes and open floor plans may keep costs toward the lower end.

Professional three-phase cleaning is essential for homes this size because the scope exceeds what homeowners can reasonably handle with household equipment. The fine construction dust requires HEPA filtration to properly remove, and the multi-story layout typical of 3,500 square foot homes presents safety concerns for window cleaning and high surfaces. Additionally, the City of Ottawa requires a clean, debris-free property before issuing occupancy permits under Ontario Building Code requirements.

When hiring contractors, always obtain written quotes from at least three different cleaning companies that specify exactly what each phase includes. Verify WSIB coverage and minimum \$2 million liability insurance. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com can help you connect with experienced post-construction cleaning contractors who understand the three-phase process and Ottawa's unique building conditions.

What does a post-construction cleaning company in Ottawa charge for window cleaning add-ons?

Window cleaning after construction in Ottawa typically costs between \$200 and \$1,500 as an add-on service, depending on the number of windows, their size, accessibility, and the amount of construction residue that needs removal. This pricing reflects the specialized nature of post-construction window cleaning, which goes far beyond regular residential window washing.

Post-Construction Window Cleaning Complexity

Construction window cleaning requires removing paint overspray, adhesive residue, concrete splatter, drywall dust film, and protective tape residue that accumulates during building or renovation work. **Standard residential window cleaning costs \$3 to \$8 per window in Ottawa, but post-construction window cleaning runs \$8 to \$25 per window** because of the additional time and specialized solvents required. Large picture windows or floor-to-ceiling glass can cost \$40 to \$80 each when heavily contaminated with construction debris.

The biggest cost factor is accessibility. Ground-floor windows are straightforward, but second-story windows, skylights, or windows above extensions require ladders or scaffolding, which increases labor time and safety requirements. **Interior window cleaning during post-construction work often costs more than exterior cleaning** because construction dust settles on interior glass surfaces in layers, and the fine particulate bonds to glass when mixed with humidity from drywall compound and paint curing.

Ottawa's extreme winter conditions affect post-construction window cleaning pricing and timing. **Windows cleaned during heating season (October through April) accumulate static electricity from low humidity, attracting fine dust particles that require multiple cleaning passes.** Professional cleaners use anti-static solutions and microfiber cloths specifically designed for construction dust removal. Summer cleaning is more efficient because higher humidity reduces static buildup, but surfaces must be cleaned before direct sunlight hits wet glass to prevent streaking.

Professional post-construction window cleaning is essential because construction debris particles act like sandpaper when dragged across glass with standard cleaning cloths. Homeowners attempting DIY window cleaning after construction frequently scratch new windows permanently, creating damage that costs hundreds or thousands of dollars to repair. Professional cleaners use glass-safe solvents, razor blade techniques for removing paint spots, and lint-free cloths that won't scratch.

For accurate pricing on your specific project, get quotes from multiple cleaning contractors who can assess your windows on-site. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com lists experienced post-

construction cleaning contractors who can provide detailed estimates for window cleaning add-ons as part of your overall cleanup project.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Construction Cleaning. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any post-construction cleaning or renovation cleanup project. Information is current as of July 12, 2026 and may change. Visit ottawaconstructioncleaning.com for the latest answers.