Drain Guru

FREE GUIDE

The Plumbing Estimate Decoder

Spot overcharges, hidden fees and scams before you sign

- ✓ Commonly quoted price ranges
- ✓ Line-by-line quote checklist
- ✓ 9 red flags of overcharging
- ✓ DIY vs. call-a-pro table

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What plumbing usually costs

Broad US ranges commonly quoted for common jobs. Big cities and emergencies run higher. Use them to sanity-check, not as a quote.

Job	Commonly quoted range
Clear a single sink, tub, shower or toilet	$100 – $300
Main sewer line (motorized auger)	$250 – $800+
Hydro-jetting a line	$350 – $1,000+
Camera inspection	$150 – $500
Trip / call-out fee	$50 – $150
After-hours / weekend multiplier	1.5× – 2×

GOOD TO KNOW

The most common callout (a single clogged drain) is also the easiest to handle yourself.

Line-by-line quote checklist

A fair quote answers every line below. Tick them off before you sign.

- [ ] It's **written**, not verbal
- [ ] The problem is described in plain words
- [ ] Labor, parts and fees are listed **separately**
- [ ] It says whether the price is **fixed** or an **estimate**, and what could change it
- [ ] Trip fee and whether it's credited to the job
- [ ] Warranty on labor and on parts
- [ ] License number (check it with your state board)
- [ ] Proof of liability insurance available on request
- [ ] Start date and how long the job should take

9 red flags

1. Pressure to decide now: “this price is only good today”
2. Cash only, or full payment before work starts
3. Refuses to put the quote in writing
4. Vague lines: “materials”, “service” with no detail
5. Full pipe replacement recommended **without camera footage** you can see
6. Price far above, or suspiciously below, other quotes
7. No license number, or won't share it
8. Unsolicited door-to-door “inspection”
9. Expensive add-ons pushed for a simple single-drain clog

Questions that protect you

- “Can you show me the problem, or the footage?”
- “Flat rate or hourly? What's the trip fee?”
- “What exactly is covered by your warranty, and for how long?”
- “What happens if the clog comes back next week?”

DIY or call a pro?

Situation	Who	Why
One sink, tub, shower or toilet is slow or clogged	**DIY**	Local clog: hair, paper, grease near the fixture
Clog came back once after clearing	**DIY, then watch**	Often left-over hair or grease
Several drains slow at once	**Plumber**	Main line or vent
Tub fills when you flush	**Plumber**	Main line blockage
Sewage smell or floor drain backing up	**Plumber**	Main line / roots / broken pipe
Anything gas, water heater, or behind walls	**Plumber**	Safety, permits, code

DRAIN GURU TIP

For the 'DIY' rows: an air-pressure drain opener clears most single-drain clogs in minutes, often for less than one trip fee.

See the Pressure Blaster at drain.guru →

Your quotes

	Company	Total	Warranty	Notes
Quote 1				
Quote 2				
Quote 3				

General information only, not professional or legal advice. Plumbing codes, prices and landlord-tenant laws vary by location. For gas, electrical, sewer-line or structural problems, use a licensed professional. Prices shown are commonly quoted US ranges, not quotes.

KEEP ONE UNDER EVERY SINK

Don't pay a callout fee for a clog you can clear in minutes.

Save the plumber for main-line problems. Handle the everyday clogs yourself.

- Pump, seal, pull the trigger: one burst of stored air
- Built-in pressure gauge, stainless steel barrel
- Heads for toilets, sinks, tubs, showers and floor drains
- No chemicals, nothing to refill

1 Blaster	2 Blasters	3 Blasters
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The Emergency Plumbing Protocol
The first 10 minutes of any leak or overflow

Clogged Drain Troubleshooting Flowchart
What to try, drain by drain

Landlord & Tenant Plumbing Kit
Signs, checklists and lease clauses

12-Month Drain Maintenance Calendar
Ten minutes a month