



United States Department of the Interior Interior Museum Program Museum Cost Estimates

This document is a modified version of the cost estimates chart provided by the National Park Service in the *Museum Handbook*, Part I (2005). The prices listed here can be used to develop initial cost estimates for constructing, renovating, and equipping a museum facility, and for preparing museum planning documents. Updated product descriptions and prices reflect improvements in technology, changes in best practices, and rising costs due to inflation. Estimates were based on current Federal contracts (see the GSA Advantage website at: <http://www.gsaadvantage.gov>), information provided by individual vendors, subject matter experts, and changes in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index (see the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator at: http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm). Costs for equipment do not include shipping. Shipping costs can be up to an additional one-third of the purchase price when shipped in the contiguous United States, and much higher when shipped to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and other locations outside the continental United States.

Note: \$/SF = cost per square foot

Museum Collection Storage

Museum Facility

	Dollars
• Renovating an existing facility	81-135/SF
• Constructing a new facility	297-434/SF

Note: Construction costs vary with the type, size, and configuration of the structure; the locality (costs in Alaska and other remote areas could double those cited); the difficulties of site preparation; and the complexity of the HVAC, security, and fire protection systems.

Equipment and Supplies

• Retrofit gasket kit	40
• Sash lock	16
• Standard museum cabinet w/10 drawers.....	775-1,520
• Doublewide museum cabinet w/10 drawers	1,591-2,160
• Wardrobe cabinet w/specialized storage interiors (depends on interior)	1,700-3,300
• Herbarium cabinet, counter height (12 compartments)	590
• Herbarium cabinet, full height (26 compartments)	830
• Entomology cabinet, counter height (15 drawer openings)	918
• Entomology cabinet, full height (24 drawer openings)	953-1,069
• Cornell drawers for entomology cabinets.....	82
• Security gun vault with acrylic museum assemblies	1,000-2,400
• High density moveable-aisle storage systems.....	149/SF
• Slotted metal angle for constructing large shelving units	171/bundle
(Each bundle includes ten 12' angle pieces with 75 nuts and bolts.	
Two bundles are needed for a 3-shelf unit measuring 4'x8'.	
Three bundles are needed for a 5-shelf unit measuring 4'x8'.)	

	Dollars
• Steel shelving units	285/unit
• 5/8"-3/4" plywood sheets for shelving	45/sheet
• Map cabinet 5-drawer unit (need 2 units for counter height)	760
• Map cabinet base units	250
• Sanitary platform for standard museum cabinet	82
• Sanitary platform for doublewide museum cabinet	105
• Sanitary platform for wardrobe cabinet	155
• Safety stacking rim for standard cabinet	35
• Lumber, plywood and paint to construct wooden platform (labor not included) for:	
Standard museum cabinet	50
Doublewide and wardrobe cabinet	60
• GSA utility cabinet for forms and museum supplies	280
• Costs for polyethylene foam, specimen trays, specialized containers, and other types of museum supplies can be found by consulting the websites and catalogs of various archival supply firms.	

Museum Environment (Storage and Exhibits)

Museum Facility

HVAC System	24-46/SF
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Equipment and Supplies

• Datalogger (temperature and RH recording)	55-580
• Remote probe for datalogger	230
• Electronic thermohygrometer (depending on brand and style)	200-900
• Hygrometer	30-500
• Portable dehumidifier (refrigerant type)	300
• Portable dehumidifier (desiccant type)	1,000
• Humidifier	340
• Portable air purifier with HEPA and activated carbon filters	450
• Visible light meter	100
• UV (ultraviolet radiation) meter	500
• Vacuum cleaner (HEPA)	300-700
• UV fluorescent filtering sleeves	15
• UV filtering Clear Acrylic (Plexiglas® or similar)	
8" x 10" sheet	12
20" x 24" sheet	76
4' x 8' x ¼" sheet	300
• UV filtering film professionally installed on windows	14/SF

Museum Exhibits

• Replacing an exhibit case	
Table top or pedestal exhibit case	2,800-11,000
Walk-in-style exhibit case	11,000-33,000

Dollars

- Retrofitting existing exhibit case
 - Retrofit of exhibit case (surfaces, paint, graphics, furniture, etc.)..... 2,200-5,500
 - Retrofit of exhibit case structure (security, lighting, etc.) 3,000-11,000
 - Retrofit of object mount (single mount or a garment mannequin)..... 550-3,300

Note: Exhibit replacement and retrofitting costs vary with the size and complexity of the exhibit case. Factors affecting cost include specialized humidity control (if needed); lighting, security, and mounts; and the availability and location of specialized contractors.

Security

Museum Facility

Intrusion detection system (approximate minimum \$2,000).....5-7/SF

Equipment and Supplies

- Recoring locks.....(contact locksmith or maintenance staff for costs)
- Locking key boxes..... 70-90
- Metal or solid core doors 300-475
- Deadbolt locks..... 70

Fire Protection

Museum Facility

- Fire detection system6-8/SF
- Fire suppression system
 - Wet pipe system (includes smoke or heat detection system)12-18/SF
 - Dry pipe system (includes smoke or heat detection system).....14-19/SF

Note: Costs increase if the system requires the installation of a new dedicated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) approved 4" or 6" water line or if there is a need for a water storage reservoir. Estimated costs for installation of a water line and storage reservoir include:

- Pipe installation..... 45/LF
- Backflow preventer..... 14,500
- Gate valve 1,500-2,200
- Water meter and box..... 11,400
- Connection to an existing water line 5,000
- 10,000 gallon steel on-grade storage reservoir..... 46,300
(Prices vary with capacity and type of construction.)

Equipment and Supplies

- ABC fire extinguisher (20 pound unit) 85
- ABC fire extinguisher (10 pound unit) 58
- Flammable liquid cabinet..... 350-745
- Four-drawer insulated file cabinet..... 790

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| | Dollars |
| • Media vault..... | 265 |
| • Media safe (various sizes)..... | 1,500-5,000 |

Professional Assistance and Museum Planning

- Assistance with establishing optimum relative humidity and temperature levels . 4,000-7,000
- Collection Condition Survey 12,000-24,000
- Collection Management Plan..... 15,000-30,000
- Collection Condition Survey 12,000-24,000
- Collection Storage Plan..... 10,000-15,000
- Emergency Management Plan 10,000-20,000
- Fire Protection Survey and Plan..... 10,000-15,000
- Housekeeping Plan 10,000-20,000
- Integrated Pest Management Plan 10,000-20,000
- Security Survey and Plan 10,000-15,000
- Scope of Collection Statement 10,000-15,000

Note: Museum planning costs include on-site assessments, research, development, plan preparation, and implementation of the final approved plan.

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