

What a Concrete Slab Costs in Sydney (2026)

Concrete quotes vary a lot for what looks like the same job, and the reason is almost never the concrete. Below is what actually drives the number, the ranges we see in 2026, and the specific places a low quote has removed cost you will pay for later.

SHORT ANSWER

In 2026, supplied and placed concrete in Sydney commonly runs about \$85 to \$140 per square metre for a shed slab, \$95 to \$135 for a plain driveway, \$110 to \$175 for a house slab, \$120 to \$190 for a path, and \$160 to \$260 for an industrial floor. Exposed aggregate and decorative finishes run higher again. Site access, soil class, slab thickness and finish move those numbers far more than the concrete does.

What you are actually paying for

The concrete itself is a surprisingly small share of a slab price. The bigger costs are excavation and base preparation, formwork, reinforcement, the labour on the day of the pour, and the finish. Access is a multiplier that catches people out, because a site a truck can back into and a site where every barrow goes through a side gate are different jobs at the same square metreage.

Quotes usually arrive as a rate per square metre. That only works for comparison if the scope behind the rate is identical. Two quotes at different rates often differ in slab thickness, mesh or bar size, base depth, or whether excavation and spoil removal are in there at all. Compare the inclusions before you compare the number.

The ranges we see in 2026

As broad Sydney ranges for supplied and placed concrete: a shed slab around \$85 to \$140 per square metre, a plain driveway \$95 to \$135, a house slab \$110 to \$175, a path \$120 to \$190, and an industrial floor or hardstand \$160 to \$260. Exposed aggregate and decorative driveway finishes commonly run \$130 to \$185. Paths look expensive per square metre for a reason, which is that the formwork and edge work costs much the same on a one metre wide path as on a wide slab, and there is very little area to spread it over.

Two things move those numbers more than the concrete does. Access, because a site a truck can back into and a site where every barrow goes through a side gate are different jobs at identical square metreage. And soil class, because a reactive clay site through much of western Sydney needs a stiffer design, thicker edge beams and more steel, which can add thousands to a house slab on its own.

Treat these as a way to sanity-check a quote rather than as a price. They are market ranges, not our rates, and any contractor quoting a firm rate without seeing the site is quoting the easy version of your job. Our own quotes are written against a stated scope after we have looked at the site.

What legitimately pushes a price up

Difficult access. Excavation in rock. Spoil removal. Reactive or unstable soil that needs a stiffer design. Extra thickness and reinforcement for heavy vehicles. Pumping where a truck cannot reach. Staged pours, work inside an operating facility, and out of hours pours.

None of that is padding. It is labour, plant and risk, and a quote that ignores it is not cheaper so much as incomplete. The difference usually turns up later as a variation.

Where a cheap concrete quote takes its money out

Roughly in this order: base preparation reduced or skipped, slab thickness shaved, mesh dropped a size or laid straight on the ground instead of chaired at the specified cover, joints left out, curing skipped altogether, and edge and finish work rushed.

Every one of those is invisible in a slab that looks perfect on handover day, and every one shows up as cracking, movement or surface failure within a few years. The repair costs more than the saving did. You can usually see it in the quote itself: a quote that states thickness, mesh or bar size, base depth and finish is written by someone who intends to build that. A quote that says 'concrete slab' and a price has left itself room.

How to compare quotes properly

Ask all three for the same six things: slab thickness, reinforcement type and cover, base preparation depth and material, joint layout, finish, and the curing method. The prices become comparable almost immediately, and the answers tell you a lot about who has actually looked at your job.

Ask what happens if they hit rock, too. The answer separates a fixed price from an opening offer.

Common questions

Why is one concrete quote half the price of another?

Nearly always because the scope is different: thinner slab, less base preparation, lighter reinforcement, or excavation and spoil removal excluded. Get every quote to state thickness, reinforcement, base and finish and the gap tends to explain itself.

Is exposed aggregate worth the extra cost?

For appearance and for grip in the wet, often yes. For durability on its own, a plain broom finish performs just as well for less money. It is a look and feel decision rather than a performance one.

How long does a slab take from start to finish?

A typical domestic slab is a few days of preparation, a day to pour, then curing time before it gets loaded. The pour is the shortest part of the job, which surprises most people.

Want this priced, or just want a straight answer? Call 0490 191 019.

Homestead Group · carpentry, concrete and guard rail · Greater Sydney

0490 191 019 · admin@hsgroupnsw.com · www.hsgroupnsw.com · ABN 20 634 117 212

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