OTTAWA CONCRETE PROS

Costs & Pricing

What concrete patios, steps, stamped and exposed aggregate work cost in Ottawa according to published 2025-26 prices, and what shows up as an extra

16 Expert Answers from Concrete Pro IQ

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Q1

Stamped concrete in Barrhaven: what is the price per square foot?

Published Ottawa-area prices put stamped concrete at roughly $15 to $45 or more per square foot, installed.

What moves the price within that range includes the size of the area and whether a small job triggers a minimum charge (Ottawa price pages note small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500), the depth of excavation and granular base required, whether old concrete needs to be removed and disposed of, the complexity of the stamped pattern, the number of colours, and how easily equipment can reach the site. Each belongs in a written quote.

A few City of Ottawa rules apply to this work. Any business installing a stamped concrete patio, walkway or steps on private property in Barrhaven is required to hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been in effect since March 1, 2026. The City's March 2026 news release says to ask to see a copy of that licence and to check the contractor's name against the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors. The licence requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 inclusive per occurrence and automobile liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000, and to provide you with a written contract and a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. The City's patio page says a ground-supported patio that meets all four conditions listed there is exempt from a building permit, but that exemption does not override the zoning by-laws: both Zoning By-law 2008-250 and Zoning By-law 2026-50 apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions of each governing. If the patio is near the front or exterior side yard, the soft landscaping minimums in Zoning By-law 2026-50 section 802 apply, and you should confirm the rules for your specific lot with the City. If any digging is involved, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 and must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before breaking ground; locates are free.

When comparing quotes, ask for the concrete compressive strength in writing: the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork. Ask for the base depth and granular material specification, the pattern and colour details, whether removal and disposal of any existing concrete is included, and what cold-weather protection is included if the pour falls when the air temperature is below 5 °C. The City's Trail Waste Facility accepts clean concrete without rebar at $144 per tonne above 250 kg. Ask who will submit the locate request.

The single most useful question to ask before signing: what is the compressive strength of the concrete you will supply, and can you show me your City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence?

Q2

Removing an old concrete patio in Vanier: how is it priced?

A national cost page puts concrete demolition and disposal at about $1,000 to $5,000 or more for a project, with the actual number depending on the size of the patio, how thick the slab is, whether there is reinforcing steel or wire mesh in it, and how easy it is to get equipment into the backyard. Get removal and disposal quoted as a separate line item so you can see exactly what you are paying for each part.

The things a quote will differ on include the total area being broken out, the thickness of the existing slab, whether rebar or mesh is present, how the broken pieces will be loaded and hauled away, and whether any excavated soil also needs to go. At the City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility, clean concrete without rebar is accepted as fill at $144 per tonne above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg, and it must be free of metal. We found no City rate for concrete that contains rebar or mesh, so ask the contractor how reinforced material will be handled and whether disposal is included in the price or billed separately.

If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority before that work begins. Locates are free. Ask who will submit the request.

The City of Ottawa's Hardscaping Contractor Licence has been required since March 1, 2026 for businesses that install or alter hard landscaping features on private property, including concrete patios. The licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and automobile liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000, to provide a written contract, and to give you a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not check anyone's licence or insurance.

A few things worth confirming in writing before the job starts:

- whether disposal is included or billed by weight after the fact
- how rebar or mesh, if present, will be disposed of and at what cost
- who submits the locate request if any digging is involved
- what the site will look like when the crew leaves (graded, backfilled or left as a bare base)

Before you hire anyone for this job, ask the contractor to show you their City of Ottawa hardscaping licence and then check their name against the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors yourself.

Q3

Why does a stamped patio cost more than broom finish in Stittsville?

Stamped concrete runs roughly $15 to $45 or more per square foot installed, while plain broom-finish concrete runs about $9 to $15 per square foot. We found no published breakdown of the difference; the price pages simply list different ranges.

The concrete mix for both finishes meets the same 2024 Ontario Building Code standard for exterior flatwork: not less than 32 MPa compressive strength at 28 days and a maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio of 0.45. Ask each contractor what the stamped price adds: the pattern, the colours, any border and the sealer.

A few things affect where a stamped quote lands within that wide range: the pattern chosen, the number of colours, the size of the slab and whether a minimum charge applies, excavation and base depth, removal and disposal of any existing concrete, and site access. On smaller jobs, Ottawa price pages note that a minimum charge of about $5,500 can shape the final number regardless of finish.

The City of Ottawa's Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been required since March 1, 2026, applies to businesses installing concrete patios. The licence costs the contractor $319 for 2026 and requires commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and automobile liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000. Ask any contractor to show you their City licence and check the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors yourself. The City's March 2026 news release says licensed contractors will also provide written contracts and give you a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide.

Before any digging starts, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 and must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before breaking ground. Locates are free.

When you have quotes in hand, ask each contractor to put the concrete strength, base depth and thickness, the specific pattern and colour system, removal and disposal of any old concrete, and cold-weather protection in writing, so you can compare them line by line rather than just the bottom number.

The most useful question to put to a contractor before signing: ask them to walk you through exactly what the base preparation includes and how that is reflected in the price.

Q4

Is $45 a square foot too much for stamped concrete in Nepean?

$45 per square foot sits at the top of the published range for stamped concrete, which runs roughly $15 to $45 or more per square foot depending on pattern and colours. It is not automatically too much, but it is a price where the quote needs to spell out exactly what is included before you can judge it.

What the number depends on is the scope behind it. We found no published breakdown of what a $45 stamped price covers, so ask the contractor to list it: the pattern and number of colours, the base work, removal and disposal of existing concrete, any steps or borders, sealing, and cold-weather protection if the pour falls when the air temperature is below 5 °C.

A few City of Ottawa rules apply regardless of price. The contractor doing this work on private property is required to hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been in effect since March 1, 2026. The City's March 2026 news release says to ask to see a copy of the licence and to check the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors. The licence requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of at least $2,000,000 per occurrence and automobile liability insurance of at least $2,000,000, and to provide you with a written contract and a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not check or verify anyone's licence or insurance. The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork; we found no statement on whether it binds a patio built without a permit, but it is a reasonable benchmark to put in the written specification.

On the consumer protection side, the Consumer Protection Act, 2002 says that if your agreement includes an estimate, the supplier cannot charge more than 10 per cent above it. Get the scope in writing before work starts. The Construction Act gives you the right to retain a 10 per cent holdback from each payment as work proceeds; get advice for your situation on how that applies to your contract.

Lay two written quotes next to each other and check that each states the base depth and compacted granular material thickness, the concrete strength in MPa, the full description of the finish including pattern, colours and any border, and what happens to the old concrete if there is any, with disposal either included or priced separately.

Q5

Does an Ottawa concrete quote include taking out the old slab?

Removal and disposal of an existing slab is not automatically included in a concrete quote. Ask for it to be itemized separately so you can see whether demolition and hauling are in the price.

What affects the removal cost is the size and thickness of the old slab, whether it contains rebar or wire mesh, how accessible the site is, and where the broken concrete goes. A national cost page puts demolition and disposal at about $1,000 to $5,000 or more for a project, with the caveat that it varies widely. Clean concrete without rebar is accepted at the City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility as fill at $144 per tonne above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg, and it must be free of metal. We found no City rate for concrete with rebar or mesh, and no City statement on whether a contractor's load is accepted under the same terms, so ask whether disposal is included in the quote and how the contractor handles reinforced material.

The City of Ottawa's Hardscaping Contractor Licence, required since March 1, 2026, covers businesses that install or alter concrete pads, patios, walkways, steps and similar hard landscaping features on private property. The licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 per occurrence and automobile liability of not less than $2,000,000. The City's March 2026 guidance says to ask any contractor to show you a copy of their business licence and to check the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors yourself. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not verify anyone's licence or insurance.

If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and a locate request must be submitted before any ground is broken. Ask who will submit that request. Under the Construction Act, you are entitled to hold back 10 per cent of the price of services and materials as they are supplied; get advice for your situation on how that applies to your contract. The Consumer Protection Act, 2002 gives you 10 days to cancel a direct agreement concluded away from the supplier's place of business, and if the quote includes an estimate, the supplier cannot charge more than 10 per cent above it.

Find the line in the quote that covers breaking out, hauling and disposing of the old concrete, and ask whether that price changes if rebar or mesh is found inside it.

Q6

Is $5,000 reasonable for a set of front steps in Gloucester?

$5,000 sits at the upper end of the published range for poured concrete steps, which Ontario price pages put at about $2,500 to $5,000 or more for a set of 3 to 5 steps. Whether it is reasonable depends on what is included, and a set of front steps in Gloucester can involve more work than the steps alone.

The price depends on several things that quotes differ on: the number of risers and the width of the stair, excavation and the footing depth required, removal and disposal of the old steps, the concrete finish, a landing at the top, any handrail or guard, and access to the site. The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets a minimum compressive strength of 32 MPa for exterior flatwork and requires that exterior concrete stairs with more than 2

risers be supported on concrete walls or piers, with the footing depth following the Code's foundation depth table. In clay soils, that table calls for 1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration, which adds excavation and forming work. The Code also sets rise limits of 125 mm minimum and 200 mm maximum, and a run of 255 mm minimum and 355 mm maximum, and requires a handrail on stairs with more than 3 risers serving one dwelling unit.

Front steps that provide access to an entrance may need a building permit. The City's Landscaping Education Guide says stairs and landings that provide access to a building can require one, and the City's Building Code Services advisory on landscaping structures confirms that a structure providing access to an egress is built under a building permit where certain conditions apply, including more than 600 mm (2'-0") difference in elevation between adjacent surfaces. Ask the City's Building Code Services whether a permit is required before work starts. The contractor doing the work is required to hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which the City has required since March 1, 2026; ask to see the licence and check the City's published list of licensed contractors yourself.

Before any digging, a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority. The Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires that a locate request be submitted and that each member respond before anyone digs, and locates are free. Ask who will submit the request.

A fair quote for front steps should spell out the number of risers and the stair width, the footing depth and support method, the concrete strength (32 MPa for exterior work), removal and disposal of the existing steps, the finish on treads and risers, whether a landing is included, any handrail or guard, and the plan if the air temperature drops below 5 °C during the pour or curing period. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, if the agreement includes an estimate, the contractor shall not charge more than 10 per cent above it.

The question that matters for steps: what footing depth will the contractor use, and how they arrived at it for the soil conditions on your lot.

Q7

How much do new poured concrete steps cost in Ottawa?

Published Ontario prices for a set of poured concrete steps run about $2,500 to $5,000 or more for a set of three to five steps, and that range can shift considerably depending on the specifics of your job.

What moves the number: the number of risers and the overall height, whether the steps need footings dug below grade, the width of the staircase, the finish (broom, exposed aggregate or stamped), removal and disposal of the old steps, and whether a landing is included. The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets a minimum width of 860 mm for exterior stairs serving a single dwelling unit. For steps with more than two risers, the Code requires the foundation to follow the depth rules in Table 9.12.2.2, which in clay soils means 1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration; in well-drained coarse soils there is no minimum depth limit. That footing work adds to the price and belongs in the written specification.

A few City rules apply here. The City of Ottawa's Hardscaping Contractor Licence has been required since March 1, 2026 for any business that installs steps on private property; the licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and to provide a written contract. The City's Landscaping Education Guide states that stairs and landings that provide access to a building may need a building permit; ask the City's Building Code Services before work starts, because the answer depends on the elevation change, the grade and whether the steps serve a required egress. The City's Building Code Services advisory adds that a structure providing access to a building must include a guard where the difference in elevation between the walking surface and the adjacent surface is more than 600 mm (2'-0") within 1.2 m. If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 and must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before breaking ground.

Ask for the quote to spell out the number of risers, the footing depth and method, the concrete strength (the Code standard for exterior flatwork is 32 MPa at 28 days), the finish, removal and disposal of the old steps, and the cold-weather protection plan if the pour happens when the air temperature is below 5 °C. The Consumer Protection Act, 2002 requires that if the quote is an estimate, the final charge must not exceed it by more than 10 per cent.

Before you hire anyone, ask them to show you their City of Ottawa hardscaping contractor licence and look up their name on the City's published list of licensed contractors yourself.

Q8

Exposed aggregate patio prices in Westboro: what is fair?

Exposed aggregate concrete in Ottawa runs about $13 to $28 per square foot installed, and small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, according to Ottawa price pages. Where a quote lands within that range depends on the size of the patio, the depth of excavation and base preparation, whether old concrete needs to come out, access to the Westboro backyard, and the aggregate mix chosen.

A few things shape whether a quote is fair for this specific job. Ask whether the quote lists removal and disposal of existing concrete as its own line. Clean concrete without rebar is accepted at the City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility as fill at $144 per tonne above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg. If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and a locate request must go through Ontario Dig Authority before any ground is broken. Ask who will submit that request.

On the regulatory side, any business installing a concrete patio in Westboro is required to hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been in effect since March 1, 2026. The City's March 2026 news release says to ask the contractor to show you a copy of that licence and to check the City's published list of licensed contractors yourself. The licence requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 per occurrence and automobile liability of not less than $2,000,000, and to provide a written contract and a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not verify anyone's licence or insurance.

For the patio itself, the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork and a maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio of 0.45. We found no Code thickness, base depth, reinforcement or vapour barrier requirement for an exterior patio, so those details come from the contractor's written specification. The City's patio page says a patio is exempt from a building permit if it is supported directly on the ground, not raised, and meets the other conditions listed there. Both Zoning By-laws 2008-250 and 2026-50 apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions of each governing; confirm the soft landscaping and walkway rules for your specific lot with the City.

When you put two written quotes side by side, ask each contractor to spell out the base depth and compacted thickness, the specified concrete strength, exactly what the exposed aggregate finish includes, and whether removal of existing concrete and disposal are in the price or billed separately.

Q9

Why do small concrete jobs in Ottawa hit a $5,500 minimum?

Small concrete jobs in Ottawa often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, according to Ottawa price pages, even when the square footage alone would price out lower against the published range of about $9 to $15 per square foot for plain broom-finish work. We found no published breakdown of why: the two Ottawa price pages that mention the minimum state it without explaining it.

Ask each contractor whether a minimum charge applies to your job and what it covers. Since March 1, 2026 the City of Ottawa has also required a hardscaping contractor licence ($319 for 2026) for businesses installing concrete pads, patios, walkways, steps or retaining walls on private property.

Line items to ask about include excavation and base preparation, forming and, where old concrete exists, removal and disposal. The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility charges $144 per tonne for clean concrete without rebar above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg. If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and a locate request must go through Ontario Dig Authority before any ground is broken. That step is free, but it takes at least five business days and has to be arranged before the crew arrives.

A quote at the minimum is not by itself a sign of overpricing; the per-square-foot range tells only part of the story for a small job.

Compare quotes on these lines: the base depth and compacted granular thickness in writing, the specified concrete strength (the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork), the finish and any colour or texture, and whether removal of existing concrete and disposal are included or listed as a separate line.

Q10

Is $15 a square foot fair for a plain concrete patio in Orleans?

$15 per square foot sits at the top of the published range for plain broom-finish concrete, which runs about $9 to $15 per square foot. It is not out of the question, but it is worth understanding what should be included at that price before you sign.

What the number depends on is the size of the job, the depth of excavation and base preparation, whether old concrete needs to come out, how easy it is to get equipment into the yard, and the time of year. Ottawa price pages note that small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, so a smaller patio can push the per-square-foot figure toward or past the top of the range even with a straightforward finish.

A few City of Ottawa rules apply to this job. The contractor must hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been required since March 1, 2026 for businesses installing concrete patios, walkways, steps and similar hard landscaping on private property. The licence requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 per occurrence and automobile liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000, and to provide you with a written contract and a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ask to see the licence and check the contractor's name against the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors yourself. The City's patio page says a patio is exempt from a building permit if it is supported directly on the ground and meets the other conditions listed there, but the exemption page also says exempt work must still comply with the Ontario Building Code and any applicable law, including the Zoning By-law. If the work involves digging, whoever digs is the excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before any digging starts.

On the technical side, the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the compressive strength standard for exterior flatwork and a maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio of 0.45 for the same. We found no Code thickness, base depth, reinforcement or vapour barrier requirement for an exterior patio, so those details come from the contractor's written specification. Ask for the base depth and material, the concrete strength, and the air entrainment plan in writing. The National Research Council's Canadian Building Digest 116 notes that air entrainment has a "remarkable effect" in improving frost resistance, and that surface scaling is most severe on horizontal surfaces exposed to freeze-thaw cycling and de-icing salts.

Ask the contractor to itemize removal and disposal of any existing concrete separately: clean concrete without rebar is accepted at the City's Trail Waste Facility at $144 per tonne above 250 kg. Also confirm whether cold-weather protection is included if the pour happens when the air temperature is below 5 °C.

The single most useful question before you sign: what exactly is included in the base preparation, and what is the cost if the excavation or soil conditions require more work than expected?

Q11

What should I budget for a broom-finish patio in Kanata?

Plain broom-finish concrete runs about $9 to $15 per square foot installed, and Ottawa price pages note that small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500. That minimum is worth knowing early, because it means a modest patio can land near the same number as a larger one.

What moves the final number around: the size of the slab and whether the minimum charge applies, how much excavation and base preparation the site needs, whether old concrete has to come out first, how accessible the backyard is for a truck and wheelbarrow, and whether the work happens during a period when the air temperature is below 5 °C, which triggers the 2024 Ontario Building Code's cold-weather concrete requirements. Removal and disposal are worth asking about separately. The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility charges $144 per tonne for clean concrete without rebar above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg, so a large demo adds up.

On the rules side, a contractor doing this work needs a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been required since March 1, 2026. The City's Hardscaping Contractor Licence page lists concrete patios among the features covered. Ask to see the licence and check the contractor's name against the City's published list yourself. The City's patio page says a patio is exempt from a building permit if it is supported directly on the ground, does not have an occupant load exceeding what is permitted, and does not adversely affect existing exiting or barrier-free access. The City's list of projects not requiring a permit includes landscaping, but also says exempt projects must still comply with the Ontario Building Code and any applicable law, including the Zoning By-law. Both Zoning By-law 2008-250 and Zoning By-law 2026-50 apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions from both applying. Under 2026-50, soft landscaping requirements apply to front and rear yards, so ask the City how much of your yard must remain soft landscaped before you fix the patio size. If any digging is involved, whoever digs is an excavator under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 and must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before breaking ground. Locates are free.

The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the compressive strength standard for exterior flatwork, and a maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio of 0.45 for the same. We found no Code requirement for a specific thickness, base depth, mesh or rebar under a patio; those come from the contractor's written specification, so ask for them in writing.

Comparing quotes, look for the base depth and compaction method, the slab thickness, the concrete strength in MPa, the finish, and whether removal and disposal of any existing concrete are included or billed separately.

Q12

What is the going rate for a plain concrete patio slab in Ottawa?

Plain broom-finish concrete slabs in Ottawa run about $9 to $15 per square foot installed, and small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, according to Ottawa price pages. That range covers a straightforward pour on a prepared base with a standard broom finish.

What moves a quote within or above that range includes the size of the slab and whether the minimum charge applies, how much excavation and base preparation the site needs, whether old concrete has to come out first, how accessible the backyard is for a truck and wheelbarrow, and the time of year the work is done.

A few City of Ottawa rules apply to this job. Since March 1, 2026, the City requires any business installing a concrete patio on private property to hold a hardscaping contractor licence. The licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and automobile liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000, and to give you a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. The City publishes a list of licensed hardscaping contractors; ask to see the licence and check the list yourself. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not verify anyone's licence or insurance. On the permit side, the City's patio page says a patio supported directly on the ground may be exempt from a building permit if it meets the conditions listed there, but those conditions should be confirmed for your specific lot. Both Zoning By-laws 2008-250 and 2026-50 apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions from each governing; the zoning rules set limits on how much of a front or exterior side yard can be hard-surfaced, so confirm the rules for your lot with the City. If the work involves digging, whoever digs must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before breaking ground; locates are free and required by the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012.

When you get quotes, ask for the concrete compressive strength in writing. The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork. Ask for the base depth and material, whether removal and disposal of any existing concrete is included, and what cold-weather protection is planned if the air temperature drops below 5 °C during or after the pour. The Consumer Protection Act, 2002 says a supplier shall not charge more than 10 per cent above an estimate included in an agreement, and a written direct agreement over $50 gives you a 10-day cancellation right.

Before you sign, ask the contractor to put the base specification, the concrete strength and the disposal plan in writing so you have something to compare across quotes.

Q13

How do Westboro concrete contractors price a small walkway?

Published Ottawa price pages put plain broom-finish concrete at about $9 to $15 per square foot installed, and small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500. A short walkway's area math can fall under that minimum, so ask whether a minimum charge applies.

What the quote depends on, beyond size, includes excavation depth and what comes out of the ground, whether old concrete needs to be removed and disposed of, the finish chosen, how accessible the site is, and whether the walkway connects to the City right of way at the sidewalk. Each should show up as a line item in a detailed quote.

A few City of Ottawa rules apply here. The contractor must hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, which has been required since March 1, 2026 for businesses that install concrete walkways on private property. The licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires the contractor to carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and automobile liability of not less than $2,000,000, provide a written contract, and give you a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ask to see the licence and check the contractor's name against the City's published list yourself. Ottawa Concrete Pros does not verify anyone's licence or insurance.

If the walkway meets the City sidewalk, the Access By-law 2026-139 applies. A residential pedestrian access no wider than 1.8 metres, not within 0.6 metres of a fire hydrant or 1.8 metres of a vehicular access, and requiring no curb or sidewalk modification can be built without an access permit under section 18 of that by-law. If those conditions are not all met, an access permit is required at $208, and a road cut permit is also required for any work in the right of way. Processing takes six to eight weeks according to the City, so ask the contractor early whether a permit is needed.

Zoning By-laws 2008-250 and 2026-50 both apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions from each governing. Both by-laws cap a walkway in a front or exterior side yard at 1.8 metres in width. Under 2026-50, the cumulative width of all walkways plus driveways and parking spaces in a front or exterior side yard must not exceed 50 per cent of the lot width, and a walkway abutting a driveway is considered part of the permitted driveway. Confirm the rules for your lot with the City before finalising the design.

Before any digging starts, a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority. The Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires any excavator to submit a locate request and receive responses from all members before breaking ground. Locates are free. Ask who will submit the request before work begins.

A fair quote for a small walkway should spell out the concrete strength (the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork), the base preparation, removal and disposal of any existing material,

whether the Trail Waste Facility fill rate of $144 per tonne applies, and cold-weather protection if the air temperature may fall below 5 °C during or after the pour.

One question to settle in writing: is an access permit needed at the sidewalk and who will apply for it.

Q14

Hot tub pad pricing in Greely: what should I expect?

A plain broom-finish concrete slab runs about $9 to $15 per square foot installed, and small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, according to Ottawa price pages. A hot tub pad is a concrete slab, so that range is the starting point, though the final number depends on several things specific to your site.

What the price depends on includes the size of the pad, how much excavation is needed, whether old concrete or other material has to be removed, how accessible the backyard is for a truck and pump, and whether you want a broom finish or something like exposed aggregate (about $13 to $28 per square foot). Removal and disposal of old concrete, if any, can add roughly $1,000 to $5,000 or more to the project, according to a national cost page, so ask that it be itemized separately in the quote.

A few rules apply to this work in Greely. The City of Ottawa's Hardscaping Contractor Licence, in effect since March 1, 2026, is required for any business installing a concrete pad on private property. The licence costs the contractor $319 for 2026 and requires commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 per occurrence. Ask to see a copy of the licence and check the contractor's name against the City's published list yourself. The City's patio page says a patio structure supported directly on the ground, with no occupant load or exiting concerns, may be exempt from a building permit, but we found no City statement on a permit for the pad under a hot tub specifically; ask the City's Building Code Services before work starts. The 2024 Ontario Building Code sets 32 MPa as the standard for exterior flatwork and a maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio of 0.45; ask for the concrete specification in writing.

Before anyone digs, a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority. Under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, no excavation may begin until each infrastructure owner has responded, and the request must be submitted at least five business days before the dig is expected to start. Locates are free. Ask who will submit the request and whether any private lines to a garage, shed or outdoor lighting will also be marked.

Zoning By-laws 2008-250 and 2026-50 both apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions from each governing. Outside Areas A and B, Zoning By-law 2026-50 requires

at least 25 per cent of the rear yard to be soft landscaped. Confirm the rules for your specific lot with the City before the pad is sized and placed.

A useful question to put to any contractor before you sign: ask them to show you their City of Ottawa hardscaping licence and to confirm in writing the concrete strength, the base depth and what is included for removal and disposal.

Q15

What is in the price of a poured step set in Vanier?

Poured concrete steps in Ottawa run about $2,500 to $5,000 or more for a set of three to five steps, based on Ontario published prices. That range covers a lot of ground, and what lands inside or outside it depends on what the quote actually includes.

Items that vary between quotes include excavation and base preparation, removal and disposal of the old steps, the footing depth required by the soil and the number of risers, cold-weather protection if the pour falls when the air temperature is below 5 °C, and whether the work touches the City right of way. None of those is automatically included, and each can add meaningfully to the number on the page.

On the code side, the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets the minimum compressive strength for exterior concrete at 32 MPa after 28 days, and the maximum water-to-cementing-materials ratio at 0.45. Steps with more than two risers need walls or piers to foundation depth; in clay soils the 2024 Code's table says 1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration. The rise of each step must be between 125 mm and 200 mm, the run between 255 mm and 355 mm, and the difference between the tallest and shortest risers in a flight must not exceed 10 mm. A handrail is not required for three risers or fewer on a single dwelling, but is required on one side for more than three risers. A guard is required on any open side where the drop exceeds 600 mm (2'-0") within 1.2 m of the walking surface.

Steps that provide access to an entrance may need a building permit. The City's Building Code Services advisory says a landscaping structure that provides access to an egress and involves more than 600 mm difference in elevation, or exceeds permissible grades near the foundation, is built under a permit. The City's Landscaping Education Guide confirms that stairs and landings providing access to a building can require one. Ask the City's Building Code Services before work starts rather than after.

The City's Hardscaping Contractor Licence has been required since March 1, 2026 for businesses installing concrete steps on private property. The licence costs $319 for 2026 and requires the contractor to carry commercial

general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 and automobile liability of not less than $2,000,000, provide a written contract, and give you a copy of the City's Landscaping Education Guide. Ask to see the licence and check the contractor's name against the City's published list yourself.

Before any digging starts, a locate request must go through Ontario Dig Authority under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012. Ask who will submit that request and confirm any private lines to the house are also identified.

Things worth confirming in writing before you agree to a price: the footing depth and how it was determined for your soil, the concrete strength specified, how removal and disposal of the old steps is handled, what cold-weather protection is included if temperatures drop, and whether the quote covers all base work or prices it separately.

Ask the contractor to show you, line by line, what removal of the existing steps and disposal of the broken concrete will cost, so you can compare that line across quotes.

Q16

What makes an exposed aggregate quote in Nepean expensive?

Exposed aggregate concrete runs about $13 to $28 per square foot in the Ottawa area, and small jobs often hit a minimum charge of about $5,500, according to Ottawa price pages. Where your quote lands in that range depends on several things that are worth understanding before you compare bids.

The factors that push a quote toward the higher end include:

- site access and excavation
- removal and disposal of existing concrete, which a national cost page puts at about $1,000 to $5,000 or more for a project, and which should be itemized separately in any quote
- base preparation, which the contractor's written specification should spell out
- the size of the pour relative to a contractor's minimum charge
- cold-weather protection, which adds labour and equipment if the pour happens when the air is below 5 °C, since the 2024 Ontario Building Code then requires the concrete to be kept at not less than 10 °C for 72 hours after placing
- the concrete mix itself, which the 2024 Ontario Building Code sets at a minimum of 32 MPa at 28 days for exterior flatwork, with a water-to-cement ratio no higher than 0.45

A few City of Ottawa rules also apply to the job. Since March 1, 2026, any business installing a concrete patio, walkway or steps on private property in Nepean is required to hold a City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence, carry commercial general liability insurance of not less than $2,000,000 per occurrence, and provide written contracts. If the work touches the City right of way, an access permit costs $208 under the Access By-law 2026-139, and a road cut permit is also required before work begins. For applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, Zoning By-laws 2008-250 and 2026-50 both apply, with the most restrictive provisions applying, so confirm the rules for your lot with the City.
Before any digging starts, a locate request must be submitted through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days in advance, under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012. Locates are free; ask the contractor who will submit the request.

When you have a quote in hand, ask the contractor to show you their City of Ottawa Hardscaping Contractor Licence and to break out the base preparation, removal and disposal, and cold-weather protection as separate line items, so you can see exactly what is driving the number.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Concrete Pros. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before starting any concrete

project, and request utility locates before anyone digs. Concrete work in Ontario must meet the 2024 Ontario Building Code (O. Reg. 163/24) where it applies. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawaconcretepros.ca** for the latest answers.