CALGARY PLUMBING PRO

# Costs & Pricing

What plumbing work costs in Calgary: hourly and call-out rates, water heaters, drain and sewer work, repiping, gas lines, rough-ins and what moves a quote up or down

12 Expert Answers from Plumbing IQ

calgaryplumbingpro.com/construction-brain

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Q1

# Is $14,000 reasonable to repipe a Poly-B bungalow in Calgary?

For a Poly-B repipe on a Calgary bungalow, $14,000 sits at the higher end of the typical range but is not unreasonable depending on the size of the home and what the quote includes. Typical Calgary figures for a whole-house repipe are $8,000 to $15,000, with most homes landing around $10,000 to $13,000.

## What moves the price on this job

A bungalow is generally more straightforward than a two-storey because the supply lines run in one direction and access through the basement ceiling is usually manageable. That said, several things push the number up or down: how many fixtures and branch lines the house has, whether the basement ceiling is drywalled or open, how much concrete needs to be cut for any below-slab runs, and whether the contractor is quoting PEX or copper as the replacement material. Ask the quote to specify which material and what diameter.

Drywall patching and painting after the work is done is often priced separately. If the $14,000 quote covers patching and painting, that changes the comparison significantly. If it does not, add that cost before deciding whether the number is fair.

**Permit and certification in Calgary.**

A repipe is not a fixture swap, so it needs a plumbing permit from the City of Calgary. When you hire a plumber, the plumber takes out the permit; a homeowner permit is only for work you do yourself. Make sure the quote states who pulls the permit and that the price covers both inspections.

The person doing the work must be a certified journeyperson plumber or a registered apprentice working under one. Under Alberta's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act, plumbing is a compulsory certification trade. Ask to see the journeyperson certificate before signing.

**Before paying any deposit**, confirm the contractor holds an Alberta prepaid contracting licence through Service Alberta. Any business that takes money before all the work is done must hold one. Also request a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming the contractor's account is in good standing.

**What a fair quote should spell out.**

A complete quote for this job should include: a fixed price (not hourly), the pipe material and diameter, the number of fixtures being connected, whether the permit fee is included, what happens to the drywall and finishes after, how removed Poly-B is disposed of, a warranty on both parts and labour, and the start and completion dates. If the quote is vague on any of those, ask for a revised version before comparing it to others.

On the Poly-B itself: the Province of Alberta notes that most Alberta installations used copper or brass insert fittings rather than the plastic fittings reported to be more prone to failure. Existing Poly-B is not illegal and there is no rule requiring replacement. The decision is yours, based on the pipe's condition, your insurer's position and your own comfort level.

Which walls and ceilings get opened, and who puts them back, is the question that separates a complete repipe quote from an incomplete one.

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Q2

## $180 an hour for an emergency plumber in Calgary, too much?

At $180 an hour for an emergency call in Calgary, you're sitting right in the middle of the typical range, which runs roughly $150 to $250 an hour after hours. That rate alone isn't a red flag.

### What you're actually paying for at that price

Emergency plumbing means someone is leaving their home or shop at 11 p.m., loading a truck and driving to yours. A call-out or service fee on top of the hourly rate is common, often $50 to $150 and more for an emergency visit, so the first hour costs more than the hourly rate alone. Ask whether the $180 is the full rate or whether a call-out fee is added separately, and whether the clock starts when they leave the shop or when they arrive at your door.

What moves the total from there: how long the diagnosis takes, whether parts are on the truck or need a supply run, whether the pipe is accessible or behind a wall, and whether the fix tonight is a permanent repair or a temporary patch that needs a follow-up visit.

**A rate in that range is reasonable; a vague scope is the real risk.** Before anyone starts work, get a written estimate of the hours expected and a clear description of what the repair includes. If a deposit is taken before the job is done, the contractor needs an Alberta prepaid contracting licence from Service Alberta; ask to see it. Also ask to see the plumber's trade certificate (plumbing is a compulsory certification trade in Alberta) and a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing.

On the permit side: most emergency repairs, such as stopping a burst pipe or fixing a failed joint, don't require a permit on their own. Work that adds to or alters the plumbing system does. The City of Calgary issues plumbing permits here, and starting permitted work before the permit is issued doubles the fee, so it's worth a quick question to the plumber about whether tonight's fix triggers one.

One practical thing you can do right now before the plumber arrives: locate your main water shut-off and close it if water is actively running where it shouldn't be. Turning off the supply stops the damage clock and gives the plumber a dry workspace to start from.

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Q3

## Calgary plumber hourly rates, what is normal to pay?

Daytime hourly rates for Calgary plumbers typically run **$85 to $150 per hour**, and a call-out or dispatch fee of $50 to $150 on top of the hourly charge is common. After hours, weekends and emergencies push that range to $150 to $250 per hour, and the call-out fee tends to be higher as well.

### What actually drives the number

Where a quote lands inside that range depends on the business and the job: specialty work, such as gas lines, drain camera inspection or a complex repipe, can carry a different rate from a straightforward fixture swap. The time of day matters a great deal: a Saturday evening call for a burst pipe will cost significantly more than booking the same job for Tuesday morning.

Smaller, well-defined jobs are sometimes priced at a flat rate rather than hourly. Clearing a sink drain, for example, often runs $150 to $300, which can work in your favour if the job takes longer than expected, or against you if it wraps up in 20 minutes. Ask upfront whether the quote is hourly or fixed, and what the call-out fee covers.

**Starting work before a permit is issued doubles the permit fee in Calgary**, so confirm the plumber is pulling the permit before any tools come out on work that requires one. For most repairs and fixture swaps, no permit is needed under the Alberta Permit Regulation, but for anything involving new or altered piping, a City of Calgary plumbing permit is required. A homeowner who owns and lives in the home can take out that permit themselves for plumbing work; gas permits in Calgary are restricted to certified gasfitters.

Before hiring, ask to see the plumber's Alberta trade certificate confirming they are a certified journeyperson or a registered apprentice working under one. If any deposit changes hands before the work is finished, the contractor must hold an Alberta prepaid contracting licence through Service Alberta. A WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirms their account is in good standing, which protects you from liability for unpaid premiums.

A fair written quote should spell out whether the rate is hourly or fixed, what the call-out fee covers, which parts are included, who pulls the permit, and what warranty applies to both labour and parts.

The single most useful line to get in writing is whether the price is a fixed total or an hourly estimate, and what happens to the bill if the job runs longer than expected.

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Q4

## Whole house Poly-B repipe in Calgary, how much should I budget?

Budget roughly $8,000 to $15,000 for a whole-house Poly-B repipe in Calgary, with most homes landing between $10,000 and $13,000. A larger two-storey house can push the number to about $18,000, and drywall patching and painting after the work is often priced separately.

### What moves the price for your home

The biggest variables are the size of the house, how many floors the supply lines run through, and how accessible the piping is. A bungalow with an open basement ceiling is faster to work through than a two-storey with finished ceilings on every level. The number of fixtures (bathrooms, laundry, wet bar, outdoor hose bibs) adds to the material and labour count. PEX and copper are both used for repipes, and the material choice affects both the price and the amount of wall opening needed.

Access is the other big driver. If drywall has to be cut to reach supply lines in finished walls, expect patching and painting costs on top of the plumbing quote. Get a clear answer on whether those trades are included or whether you arrange them separately.

**A plumbing permit from the City of Calgary is required for a repipe**, and the contractor should take it out before touching a pipe. The permit fee is based on the construction value of the job, starting at $116.50 and rising with the value of the work. Starting without a permit doubles the fee, and the City will not issue a homeowner permit for concealed plumbing that was done without one. Make sure the quote names who pulls the permit; when you hire the work out, it should be the plumber.

The plumber doing the work must be a certified journeyperson or a registered apprentice working under one. That is a requirement under Alberta's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act, not a suggestion.

**On Poly-B itself:** existing Poly-B is not illegal and no rule requires you to replace it. The Province of Alberta notes that Alberta installations typically used copper or brass insert fittings, rather than the plastic fittings reported to be more prone to failure. That said, if your insurer has questions about Poly-B, check with them directly; never assume what their position is.

**What a fair quote should include.**

Ask each plumber to give you a written quote that covers:

- A fixed price (or a clear hourly rate with an estimated total), not just a ballpark
- The pipe material and fittings specified by model or type
- Which walls or ceilings will be opened and who patches them

- The permit and both rough-in and final inspections
- Removal and disposal of the old Poly-B
- A warranty on both parts and labour, with the terms in writing
- Payment schedule and start and completion dates

Before signing, ask to see the plumber's trade certificate, confirm they hold an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if any deposit changes hands before the work is complete, and request a WCB-Alberta clearance letter. GST (5%) applies to the plumber's invoice.

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Q5

## My quote for a new water heater is $4,200 in Airdrie, fair?

Typical Calgary-area figures for a supplied-and-installed gas water heater are $1,500 to $3,500 for a standard 50-gallon tank or $2,200 to $5,000 for a tankless unit, so $4,200 sits at the upper end of the tank range and squarely in the middle of the tankless range. Whether it's fair depends heavily on what's included and which type of heater you're getting.

### What moves the price on this job

A standard 50-gallon gas tank is the baseline. The quote climbs when the contractor supplies a high-efficiency or larger tank, when the gas line needs to be resized or extended, or when the venting has to change (for example, switching from a natural draft heater to a direct vent or power vent model). Tankless units cost more upfront and often require a larger gas line, which adds $400 to $1,500 on top of the unit and installation. Disposal of the old heater and any concrete or drywall work also affect the total.

**Ask the contractor to break the quote into parts: the unit (make, model and capacity), labour, gas line work if any, venting, permit, and removal of the old heater.** That breakdown tells you immediately whether $4,200 is for a basic swap or a more involved job.

#### Permits in Airdrie

The City of Airdrie issues plumbing and gas permits and lists hot water tanks as work that needs a permit. Homeowners can obtain permits only for homes they own and occupy, not for any part of a rental. Since January 2026, a homeowner-led trade permit carries an additional $100 fee per trade. When you hire a contractor, the contractor takes out the permits and the cost should appear as a line in your quote. If it doesn't, ask directly who is taking out the permits and whether that cost is included.

### Certification

Gas work is a compulsory trade in Alberta under the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act. The person connecting the gas line must be a certified journeyperson gasfitter or a registered apprentice working under one. Ask to see the gasfitter's trade certificate before signing anything.

### What a solid quote includes

A fair written quote should show the unit by make, model and capacity; a fixed price or a clear hourly rate with a call-out fee; the permit; gas line and venting work itemized separately if needed; removal and disposal of the old heater; and a warranty on both parts and labour with the terms spelled out. Get at least two quotes and compare them scope for scope, not just the bottom line.

**Before hiring, check three things:** the contractor's gasfitter trade certificate, an Alberta prepaid contracting licence from Service Alberta (required if you're paying any deposit before the work is complete), and a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing.

If you want to do something useful right now, find your home's main water shut-off and confirm you know how to close it quickly, so you're ready if the old heater starts leaking before the replacement is scheduled.

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Q6

## Tankless water heater installed in Calgary, what should the price be?

A tankless gas water heater supplied and installed in Calgary typically runs **$2,200 to $5,000**, and if the gas line needs to be upgraded to handle the higher BTU demand, add another $400 to $1,500 on top of that. Where your quote lands depends heavily on a few variables specific to your house.

### What moves the price

The unit itself is the biggest factor: entry-level residential tankless heaters cost less than high-efficiency condensing models, and the labour to install them differs too. Condensing units also need a condensate drain and their own venting, which changes the installation. Where the heater goes matters as well. A straightforward swap in a utility room with an existing gas line nearby costs less than a new location that requires running a longer gas line, adding a dedicated cold-air intake, or cutting through an exterior wall.

Calgary's hard water is worth factoring into the decision. Scale can build up inside a tankless unit, so check the manual for the descaling interval, and ask whether the installer includes the first service in the price.

After-hours or emergency installs carry a premium, roughly $150 to $250 an hour versus $85 to $150 during regular hours, plus a call-out fee that often runs $50 to $150 or more.

**Permits and certification in Calgary.**

A tankless unit is almost never a straight like-for-like swap. Changing from a tank to a tankless heater, upgrading the gas line, or modifying the venting all trigger permit requirements under the City of Calgary. The City issues both the plumbing and gas permits here. **A homeowner in Calgary cannot take out a gas permit** unless they are themselves an Alberta-certified journeyman gasfitter; gas work on a tankless installation must be done by a certified gasfitter under a gas permit. The contractor pulls the permit, and the City inspects the work.

The gas code in force in Alberta is CSA B149.1:25, in effect since March 1, 2026. The gasfitter designs the installation to that standard and the City's inspector signs off.

**What a fair quote includes.**

Ask for a written, itemized quote that covers:

- The unit by make, model and BTU rating
- Labour (fixed price or hourly rate plus call-out fee)
- Any gas line work and the materials involved
- Venting, condensate drain if applicable, and any wall penetrations
- The permit fee and who pulls it
- Removal and disposal of the old unit
- GST (5%)
- Warranty terms on both parts and labour, in writing

Before signing, ask to see the gasfitter's Alberta trade certificate, confirm the contractor holds an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if you are paying any deposit before the work is complete, and request a WCB-Alberta clearance letter.
Before the quote is finalized, ask the gasfitter directly which permits are required for this specific installation and whether the City inspection is included in the price or billed separately if a re-inspection is needed.

Q7

# Replacing a 50 gallon hot water tank in Calgary, what does it cost?

A standard 50-gallon gas tank water heater, supplied and installed by a Calgary plumber, typically runs **$1,500 to $3,500** in 2025-2026. Where your quote lands depends on the brand and model chosen, whether the gas line or venting needs any changes, and whether the job happens during regular hours or on a weekend call.

## What moves the price on this job

The tank itself accounts for a big share of the total. A builder-grade unit costs less; a higher-efficiency or longer-warranty model costs more. Labour is usually a fixed price for a straightforward swap, but if the plumber finds the gas line needs upgrading to handle the new heater, add roughly $400 to $1,500 for that work. Disposal of the old tank sometimes appears as a separate line; so does a new drip pan, expansion tank, or updated relief valve discharge pipe.

**Permit rules in Calgary.** A straight like-for-like tank swap at the same location, with no changes to the gas line upstream of the heater's shut-off valve and no change to the venting, needs no permit under the City of Calgary's rules. A permit is required if the gas line upstream of the shut-off changes, the venting changes, or the type of heater changes (for example, swapping a natural draft unit for a direct vent). If a permit is needed, the City of Calgary charges a minimum of $116.50 for a contractor's trade permit; starting work before the permit is issued doubles that fee.

Gas work on the heater must be done by an Alberta-certified gasfitter or a registered apprentice working under one. In Calgary, a homeowner cannot pull a gas permit unless they hold an Alberta journeyman gasfitter certificate themselves, so the gas side is a job for a certified gasfitter.

**What a fair written quote includes.** Ask for a fixed price (not just an hourly rate) that spells out the tank make, model and capacity; the labour; removal and disposal of the old unit; any changes to the gas connection or venting; the permit if one is needed; and a warranty on both parts and labour. GST at 5% applies to the contractor's work.

Before signing, check that the gasfitter holds a valid Alberta trade certificate (ask to see it), confirm the contractor has an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if you are paying any deposit before the work is complete, and ask for a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing.

Venting is where water heater quotes most often grow: ask whether the existing vent is compatible with the new unit, and get any required venting work priced in writing before the old tank comes out.

Q8

## Why is the fee higher when a Calgary plumber comes after hours?

After-hours plumbing calls in Calgary typically run $150 to $250 an hour, compared with roughly $85 to $150 during regular business hours, and a call-out fee on top is common, often more for an emergency visit than the daytime $50 to $150.

### Why the premium exists

The gap comes down to how a plumbing business actually works. During the day, a dispatcher can route a technician efficiently between jobs, keeping the truck moving and the overhead spread across several calls. At 11 p.m. on a Sunday, one plumber drives across the city for a single job, often pulling someone away from home on short notice or paying a standby rate to keep a technician available overnight. That labour cost, plus the inconvenience premium, flows directly into what you pay.

A few other things push the after-hours number higher in specific situations. If the job needs a part that is not on the truck, a supplier call-out or a second trip the next morning adds time and cost. Tight access, a flooded mechanical room, or a problem that turns out to be bigger than the initial call described all extend the hours billed. Emergency calls also tend to be diagnosed under pressure, which occasionally leads to a temporary fix that night and a return visit during business hours for the permanent repair, so you may end up paying both rates.

**The honest question to ask yourself is whether the problem truly cannot wait.** A slow-draining sink or a dripping faucet can sit until morning. A burst pipe with water spreading toward the electrical panel, a sewer backup with sewage on the floor, or a gas smell are genuine emergencies where waiting costs more than the after-hours rate.

When you do call after hours, ask the plumber two things before they come: what is the call-out fee, and is the hourly rate the same for the whole visit or does it change after a certain number of hours. Get those numbers confirmed, ideally in writing by text or email, before anyone drives out.

Before you pick up the phone, locate your main water shut-off and close it if water is the problem; stopping the flow right now costs nothing and may turn an emergency into a morning appointment.

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Q9

## Budget for a basement bathroom rough-in on a Calgary house?

A basement bathroom rough-in in Calgary typically runs **$2,500 to $5,500**, and can reach around $8,000 where the concrete slab requires extensive cutting. That range covers labour and basic materials for the drain, vent and supply rough-in only; fixtures, tile, drywall and finishing are separate costs.

## What moves the price for this job

The biggest variable is how much concrete gets opened. A basement bathroom needs drains below the slab, so the plumber cuts the floor, digs down to tie into the existing drain stack or building drain, sets the rough-in for the toilet, shower or tub, and sink, then pours the concrete back. A bathroom positioned close to the existing stack with a shallow drain depth costs less to rough in than one at the far end of the basement where the run is long and the digging is deep. The number of fixtures matters too: a simple two-piece (toilet and sink) is less work than a full three-piece with a shower or tub.

Other factors: the condition of the existing drain and whether it needs any repair while it is exposed; whether a sewage ejector pump is needed if gravity drainage is not possible; and whether supply lines are copper or PEX, which affects material cost.

**A plumbing permit from the City of Calgary is required for this work.** A homeowner who owns and lives in the home may apply for the permit and do the rough-in themselves, but the work must pass a rough-in inspection before the concrete is poured back and a final inspection once the fixtures are in. The City of Calgary's 2026 contractor permit fee starts at $116.50 and rises with the declared construction value. Starting work before the permit is issued doubles the fee, so the permit comes first.

The rough-in inspection is the critical checkpoint: the inspector checks that drains are properly sloped, vented and supported before anything is covered. Do not pour the concrete back until that inspection is signed off.

**Who does the work:** a certified journeyperson plumber, or a registered apprentice working under one, must do this for pay in Alberta under the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act. Ask to see the trade certificate before work starts. If any deposit changes hands before the job is complete, the contractor must hold an Alberta prepaid contracting licence (Service Alberta); ask for it and get a written contract. A WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirms the contractor's account is in good standing.

**What a fair quote covers:** the scope should spell out how many fixtures are roughed in, the estimated length of concrete to be cut and restored, whether the existing stack needs any work, who pulls the permit, and whether concrete patching is included or quoted separately. Fixture supply, drywall, tile and finishing should each be a separate line so you can compare quotes on the same scope.

When you put two written quotes side by side, line up the concrete-cutting and patching scope, the number and placement of rough-in points, who is responsible for the permit and inspections, and what each contractor's warranty covers on labour and materials.

Q10

# Budget for adding a bar sink to a Calgary basement?

There is no single going rate for a basement bar sink in Calgary: plumbers price it after seeing the space, at roughly **$85 to $150 an hour** plus a call-out fee that is often $50 to $150, and most of the total comes down to how much new drain and supply piping is needed, whether concrete has to be cut, and how far the sink sits from an existing stack or drain line.

## What moves the price on this job

The biggest variable is the drain. A bar sink needs a drain line that ties into the existing sanitary system, and in a basement that usually means cutting concrete to run the pipe at the right slope, then patching it afterward. If the sink location is close to an existing cleanout or floor drain connection, the concrete cut is short and the cost stays lower. A longer run, or one that has to work around existing footings or mechanicals, adds time and materials quickly.

Supply lines (hot and cold) are usually the simpler part, but if the nearest supply is far away or the pipes are older and need work to connect to, that adds to the bill. The sink and faucet themselves are not always included in a plumber's quote, so confirm whether the price covers fixtures or labour only.

Finishing work, meaning patching the concrete and any drywall opened to run supply lines, may or may not be in the plumber's scope. Get that in writing before work starts.

**A permit is required for this work.** The City of Calgary issues plumbing permits, and adding a new sink with new rough-in piping is exactly the kind of work that needs one. As a homeowner who owns and lives in the home, you can apply for the plumbing permit yourself and do the work, or your plumber can take it out. What you cannot do is have the plumber do the work under your homeowner permit; the permit holder must be the one doing the work. The City's homeowner plumbing permit fee is $116.50. If a contractor pulls the permit, the fee is based on construction value with a minimum of $116.50. Starting before the permit is issued doubles the fee.

A certified journeyperson plumber, or a registered apprentice working under one, must do any paid work. Ask to see the trade certificate before signing anything. If a deposit is required before the job is finished, the contractor needs an Alberta prepaid contracting licence from Service Alberta; check that before handing over any money. Also ask for a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming the contractor's account is in good standing.

A fair written quote for this job should spell out: the scope of the drain and supply work, whether concrete cutting and patching are included, the sink and faucet (or a note that you supply them), a fixed price or the hourly rate and call-out fee, who pulls the permit, and the warranty on parts and labour.

Once the job is done, keep the permit, the inspection sign-off from the City, and the written warranty somewhere you can find them; they matter if you sell the home or have a warranty claim later.

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Q11

## What is a normal call-out fee for a Calgary plumber?

A call-out or service fee of **$50 to $150** is typical for a Calgary plumber during regular business hours, and that jumps to roughly $150 to $250 for the hourly rate alone on evenings, weekends or emergency calls, often with a higher call-out charge on top.

### What you are actually paying for

The call-out fee covers the plumber's travel time and the cost of showing up, separate from any labour billed once the work begins. Some contractors roll it into the first hour of labour; others list it as a separate line. Either way, expect to see it on the invoice, so ask upfront how the company structures its pricing before anyone comes to the door.

A few things push that fee higher or lower. Distance matters: a plumber coming from across the city in rush-hour traffic may charge more than one working nearby. Time of day matters a lot: a burst pipe at 11 p.m. on a Sunday will cost more to get someone out than a dripping tap booked for Tuesday morning. The nature of the call matters too: a straightforward diagnostic visit is priced differently from an emergency where the plumber drops another job to reach you.

**What a fair quote or invoice should show clearly:** the call-out or service fee as a separate line, the hourly rate (or a fixed price for the job), whether parts are included or billed at cost plus a markup, and whether the call-out fee is credited toward the repair if you proceed. Ask all of this before you book.

Before anyone starts work, ask to see the plumber's Alberta trade certificate confirming they are a certified journeyperson or a registered apprentice working under one. Plumbing is a compulsory certification trade in Alberta under the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act, so paid work requires that credential. Also ask for a WCB-Alberta clearance letter; without one, you could be on the hook for unpaid premiums if the contractor's account is not in good standing. If any deposit changes hands before the job is finished, the contractor must hold an Alberta prepaid contracting licence issued by Service Alberta.

For a non-emergency call, it is worth getting two or three quotes. Compare not just the call-out fee but the hourly rate, how they handle parts, and whether they give a fixed price once they have seen the problem. A plumber who charges a slightly higher call-out but offers a firm fixed price for the repair can easily work out cheaper than one

with a low call-out and open-ended hourly billing.

The request form on this site puts your job in front of local Calgary plumbers, so you can line up a few numbers and compare them directly.

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Q12

## Adding a laundry drain in a Calgary basement, what is the cost?

There is no single going rate for adding a laundry drain in a Calgary basement: plumbers price it after seeing the space, at about **$85 to $150 an hour** plus a call-out fee, and the concrete work decides most of the total. For scale, a full basement bathroom rough-in, which involves the same kind of trenching for several fixtures, commonly runs $2,500 to $5,500.

### What moves the price on this job

The biggest variable is concrete. If the washing machine sits close to a floor drain or a stack that already has a clean-out at floor level, a plumber may be able to tie in with minimal cutting. Move the machine further away, or put it in a spot where the drain has to run across the basement floor to reach the stack, and you are looking at more cutting, more pipe, more labour and more patching.

A proper laundry drain also needs a standpipe and trap, and the drain must be vented. If there is no vent close by, running new vent pipe adds cost and complexity. The plumber will assess the existing drain layout before quoting.

The call-out fee is often $50 to $150. Ask for a fixed price once the plumber has seen the space rather than an open hourly estimate.

**A permit is required.** The City of Calgary requires a plumbing permit when altering or adding to a plumbing system, and a new drain connection qualifies. A homeowner plumbing permit is available if you own the home, live in it and do the work yourself; the 2026 fee is $116.50 (the $112 base plus a $4.50 Safety Codes Council levy). A contractor's permit starts at the same minimum and scales with construction value. The City requires a rough-in inspection and a final inspection, so factor that into the timeline. Starting work before the permit is issued doubles the fee.

The work must be done under the National Plumbing Code of Canada 2020, which has been in force in Alberta since April 1, 2023.

**What a fair quote should include:** a fixed price (not just an hourly estimate), the scope of concrete cutting and patching, the pipe run length and material, standpipe and trap, venting method, the permit and inspection, removal of debris, and a warranty on both parts and labour. Ask specifically whether concrete patching is in the price or billed separately, because that is a common gap between quotes.

Before signing, check that the plumber holds a valid Alberta trade certificate as a journeyperson plumber (or is a registered apprentice working under one), a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing, and an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if they are collecting any deposit before the work is finished. Get the scope and payment terms in writing.

The request form on this page puts your job in front of local Calgary plumbers who can give you a fixed-price quote once they have seen the basement layout.

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**Disclaimer:** This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Calgary Plumbing Pro. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority (the City of Calgary or your own municipality) before starting any plumbing or gas project. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **calgaryplumbingpro.com** for the latest answers.