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How Much Does a Hydraulic 2-Stop Elevator Cost?

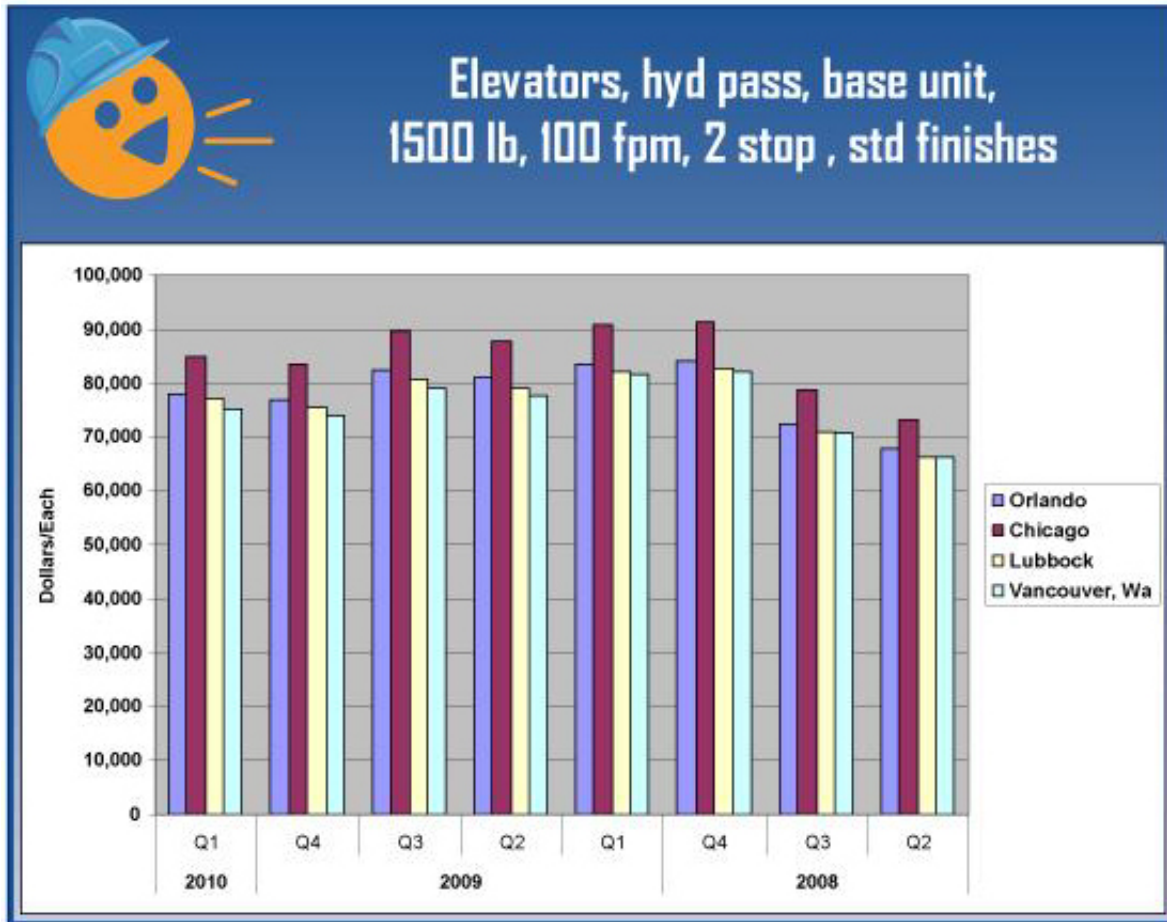
by [Dean Dalvit](#) on October 4, 2014

A very common question we get when designing multi-level commercial projects is: **Will I need an elevator and how much will that cost?** It can often be a deciding factor in going with multi-story design. Elevators come in all shapes and sizes, so I’ve decided to limit this post to hydraulic 2-stop elevator as this is the most common elevator in most light commercial applications.

First of all, **the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) states clearly that all commercial space must**

be accessible. While some jurisdictions will take exception for certain types of occupancy and sometimes even allow alternatives to elevators for small areas of space on other levels, it is generally a good rule of thumb to **assume that if you have multiple levels, you should plan on having an elevator.**

The cost of a full commercial elevator is significant, as well as the space requirements in the plan for the shaft and equipment. Like all costs, there are variations for geographic location as well as trends in the economic market that can drive the cost. Below is a chart, courtesy of The Means Report, published by [RSMMeans](#), the industry's leading construction cost estimating resource.



Cost of Hydraulic 2-Stop Elevator

The installed cost of these units range from \$65,000 to \$75,000, depending on the location, and the trend right now is in a down cycle. This data is also very consistent with installed costs for similar elevator units in projects that we have designed in both Colorado and Texas. The highest average cost for these units has reached over \$90,000 in the last two years, and is likely to return to those levels in the future. If you are considering developing a commercial project, it is best to understand the impacts of all of the required systems to the overall budget before even starting the Schematic Design. This is one of the many services that we provide at EVstudio and we are happy to help you navigate the entire matrix of estimated costs in order to help you define your project.

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Dean Dalvit [December 17, 2015 at 3:59 pm](#)

Steve, I think that's about right for an initial estimate. Once you develop a basic plan, you can validate that with a local rep for one of the leading elevator companies like Otis or Schindler. Best of luck with your project!



Steve Harvey [December 17, 2015 at 1:33 pm](#)

Dean,
Thanks for this excellent overview article. I am working on preliminary design for a small bar & grill building in Jacksonville, FL; 2 floors, 1600 sf each. Florida ADA requires an elevator for 2-story buildings of this type. Based on your guidance, I should use about \$80,000 as the initial estimate for total incremental cost of adding an ADA compliant elevator to this building. Does that sound about right? Thanks!
Steve



Dean Dalvit [November 27, 2015 at 11:49 pm](#)

Tariq,
I'm not sure I'm understanding your question. I'm not familiar with installation of used elevators from previous installations. I'm not even certain if that's really feasible. Can you provide more information about your project and what you're looking for?



Tariq Mahmood [November 27, 2015 at 2:26 am](#)

Dear Sir- If it is used one , please let me knew ,how old is? and how much u lookin for 2 stops elevator. i be appreciated if you let me know please. thanks.



Dean Dalvit [September 24, 2015 at 1:03 pm](#)

John,