

Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide

JANUARY 1998

INDEX OF VEHICLES (Cont.)

	Year	Page		Year	Page
FORD TRUCKS			GENERAL MOTORS (Cont.)		
Bronco	1987-91*	534	GEO		
Bronco	1980-86	542	Spectrum/Sunburst	1985-89	894
Bronco II	1989-90	550	GMC		
Bronco	1984-88	558	Cavaliero	1978-87	843
Ford Pickup	1987-91*	567	OLDSMOBILE		
Ford Pickup	1980-86	582	Custom Cruiser	1980-90	903
Ranger Pickup	1983-88	594	Cutlass Calais (FWD)	1985-91*	917
Econoline Van	1975-91*	604	Cutlass		
GENERAL MOTORS			Supreme	1982-87	932
BUICK			Calais	1982-88	932
Electra/LeSabre/Estate			Delta 88 Royale (FWD)	1986-91*	945
Wagon (FWD)	1980-90	620	Firenza	1988	958
Electra/Park Avenue (FWD)	1985-90	633	1982-87	967
Le Sabre (FWD)	1986-91*	647	Toronado	1986-89	978
Reatta	1988-91*	660	1979-85	986
Regal	1982-87	670	88/98 (RWD)	1980-90	903
Riviera	1979-85	682	98 Regency (FWD)	1985-90	993
Skyhawk	1988-89	689	PONTIAC		
.....	1982-87	700	Bonneville (FWD)	1987-91*	1008
Skylark	1980-85	712	Bonneville	1982-86	1019
Somerset/Skylark (FWD)	1985-91*	720	Fiero	1984-88	1027
CADILLAC			Grand Am	1985-91*	1036
Cimarron	1982-88	735	Grand Prix	1978-87	1051
Déville (FWD)	1985-88	744	Parisienne	1983-86	1060
Eldorado	1986-91*	753	Safari	1987-89	1060
.....	1979-85	765	1000	1981-87	1070
Fleetwood (FWD)	1985-88	744	2000/Sunbird	1982-87	1078
Seville (FWD)	1985-91*	772	6000	1982-91*	1091
Seville	1980-85	783	SPORT UTILITIES		
CHEVROLET			Full Size		
Caprice	1980-90	849	Blazer/Jimmy		
Cavalier	1982-87	789	R,V	1987-91*	1112
Celebrity	1982-90	805	C,K	1978-86*	1112
Chevette	1976-87	825	SUBURBAN		
Citation	1980-85	834	R,V	1987-91*	1123
El Camino	1978-87	843	C,K	1978-86*	1123
Impala	1980-90	849	PICKUP TRUCKS		
Monte Carlo	1978-88	862	Full Size		
Nova	1985-88	873	R,V	1987-91*	1135
Sprint/Firefly	1985-88	883	C,K	1978-86*	1135
Spectrum/Sunburst	1985-89	894			

* Indicates new information for this publication.

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Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is a comprehensive resource designed to assist auto repair professionals in accurately estimating the repair costs associated with vehicle collisions. This guide plays a crucial role in the automotive repair industry by providing standardized methodologies and data necessary for estimating repairs. It combines various elements, including labor rates, parts pricing, and repair procedures, allowing auto body shops to generate quotes that align with industry standards. In this article, we will delve into the various features, benefits, and usage of the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide, as well as its importance in the collision repair industry.

What is the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide?

The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is a proprietary estimating tool developed by Mitchell International, a leader in the automotive repair and insurance industries. The guide is designed to provide repair facilities with accurate and detailed cost estimates for collision repairs.

Components of the Guide

The guide consists of several key components:

1. **Labor Operations:** The guide provides detailed descriptions of labor operations required for various types of collision repairs, including bodywork, paint, and mechanical repairs.
2. **Parts Pricing:** It includes information on aftermarket and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts pricing, allowing estimators to select the most appropriate options for repairs.
3. **Repair Procedures:** The guide outlines standard repair procedures for different vehicle makes and models, ensuring that technicians follow best practices during repairs.
4. **Paint and Refinishing:** It provides guidelines for paint and refinishing processes, including paint type, color matching, and application techniques.
5. **Estimation Software:** The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is available in software format, integrating with existing management systems to streamline the estimating process.

Benefits of Using the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide

The guide offers numerous advantages to collision repair facilities, insurers, and technicians. Here are some of the primary benefits:

1. Standardization

The guide helps standardize the estimating process across the industry, ensuring that all repair shops adhere to the same guidelines. This standardization fosters consistency in quotes and helps insurers evaluate claims more effectively.

2. Accuracy of Estimates

By utilizing the guide, repair facilities can produce accurate estimates that reflect the true cost of repairs. This accuracy reduces the likelihood of disputes between repair shops and insurers, leading to smoother claims processing.

3. Time Efficiency

The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide streamlines the estimating process, allowing technicians to generate quotes quickly. This efficiency can enhance customer satisfaction, as clients receive timely estimates.

4. Comprehensive Data

The guide includes a wealth of data on various vehicle models, repair procedures, and parts pricing. This comprehensive information empowers estimators to make informed decisions regarding repairs and costs.

5. Training and Support

Mitchell International offers training and support for users of the estimating guide. This training ensures that technicians and estimators are familiar with the software and can utilize it effectively.

How to Use the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide

Using the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide effectively requires familiarity with its features and functionalities. Here's a step-by-step overview of how to utilize the guide for collision repair estimating:

Step 1: Gather Information

Before generating an estimate, gather essential information about the vehicle involved in the collision, including:

- Make and model
- Year of manufacture

- VIN (Vehicle Identification Number)
- Description of the damage
- Photos of the damage

Step 2: Access the Software

Access the Mitchell Collision Estimating software, either through a web interface or a dedicated application. Log in using your credentials to access the estimating tools.

Step 3: Input Vehicle Information

Enter the vehicle information into the software's database. This input will help the software retrieve relevant data related to the specific make and model.

Step 4: Select Repair Operations

Browse through the various labor operations and parts required for the repairs. The software will provide a list of suggested operations based on the damage described.

- Labor Operations: Select applicable labor operations, such as:
 - Body repair
 - Frame straightening
 - Paint preparation
 - Painting
- Parts Selection: Choose between OEM and aftermarket parts, taking into account the client's preferences and budget.

Step 5: Generate Estimate

Once all necessary information and selections are made, the software will compile an estimate. Review the estimate for accuracy and completeness.

- Check for:
 - Labor costs
 - Parts pricing
 - Any additional fees (e.g., disposal fees, hazardous materials fees)

Step 6: Present the Estimate

Present the estimate to the client, ensuring they understand the breakdown of costs and the repair process. Address any questions or concerns they may have.

Challenges and Considerations

While the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide offers numerous benefits, it is essential to consider potential challenges and limitations:

1. Software Familiarity

Technicians and estimators may require training to become proficient in using the software effectively. Investing time in training sessions can yield significant long-term benefits.

2. Updating Data

Automotive repair techniques and parts pricing can change frequently. It is vital to ensure that the estimating software is updated regularly to reflect current market conditions.

3. Variability in Labor Rates

Labor rates can vary significantly based on geographic location and shop specialization. The guide provides standardized rates, but shops should adjust estimates based on their local market conditions.

4. Understanding Vehicle Technology

As vehicles become more complex, understanding the technology and repair procedures can be challenging. Continuous education and staying updated on industry trends are essential for accurate estimating.

Conclusion

The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is an invaluable tool in the collision repair industry, providing a structured approach to estimating repair costs. By offering standardized labor rates, parts pricing, and repair procedures, the guide enhances the accuracy and efficiency of the estimating process. Repair facilities that embrace this tool can improve their customer service, streamline claims processing, and establish a reputation for reliability and transparency.

In a rapidly evolving automotive landscape, staying informed and utilizing resources like the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide can empower repair shops to navigate complex repairs effectively and deliver exceptional service to their clients. As the industry continues to grow and adapt, tools like these will remain crucial to ensuring that collision repair facilities can meet the demands of the market and provide accurate estimates that benefit all parties involved.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide used for?

The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is used by automotive repair professionals to estimate the costs associated with vehicle repairs following a collision. It provides detailed information on labor rates, parts pricing, and repair procedures.

How does the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide improve accuracy in estimates?

The guide improves accuracy by offering standardized labor times and parts pricing based on extensive industry data and analysis, ensuring that estimates reflect current market conditions.

Is the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide available in a digital format?

Yes, the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is available in both print and digital formats, allowing users to access it through software applications or online platforms.

What types of vehicles does the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide cover?

The guide covers a wide range of vehicles, including passenger cars, trucks, SUVs, and vans, providing estimates for various makes and models.

Who typically uses the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide?

The guide is primarily used by auto body shops, insurance adjusters, and collision repair professionals to prepare repair estimates and negotiate claims.

How often is the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide updated?

The Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide is updated regularly to reflect changes in parts pricing, labor rates, and repair technologies, ensuring users have the most accurate information.

Can the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide help with insurance claims?

Yes, the guide can assist in preparing detailed and accurate estimates that are often required by insurance companies for processing claims.

What are the benefits of using the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide over other estimating tools?

Benefits include its comprehensive database, industry recognition, user-friendly interface, and the ability to generate estimates that are widely accepted by insurers and repair shops.

Are there any training resources available for using the Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide?

Yes, Mitchell offers various training resources, including webinars, tutorials, and user manuals, to help users effectively navigate and utilize the estimating guide.

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James Gordon Mitchell 2011 2012

Joni Mitchell -

Joni Mitchell David Crosby Bob Dylan 9

Mitchell -

Mitchell Being Human John Mitchell, Mitchell, John 4

Tom Mitchell - 10
“” “Tom Mitchell

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2025 NBA - NBA NBA San Antonio
Spurs Donovan

10
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Joni Mitchell -
Joni Mitchell David Crosby Bob Dylan 9

Mitchell -
Mitchell Being Human John Mitchell, Mitchell , John 4

“” “Tom Mitchell

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Unlock the secrets of accurate vehicle damage assessment with our comprehensive Mitchell Collision Estimating Guide. Learn more to streamline your estimating process today!

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