SP Combs Estimating Solutions

Paint Takeoff System

Current Owner and Collaborator Guide

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Updated login, precision measurements, room review, metal preparation assemblies and collaboration.

Estimate records save to your signed-in account. Original drawing and specification files remain on the importing device and site address. When moving from the prior hosted address, use Backup / restore to carry the plan files to the new address. Use Backup / restore for an authorized package including files when moving devices. The prior standalone offline HTML application is a separate edition.

Open the current guide and five updated videos

Before you start

Use your own account and a synthetic practice project. Verify project quantities and prices before issuing a bid. Google Authenticator setup keys and recovery codes are private account credentials. Never place them in shared notes or an estimate.

Current estimating workflow

Create and identify the project

Start a new project, confirm the active project in the header, and enter name, client, work order, revision, scope and exclusions. Keep a practice project separate from a live bid.

Import and review the documents

Use Plans & specifications to import supported files. Review the full document set and specification requirements. AI suggestions require estimator approval; they are not a completeness guarantee.

Calibrate and measure

Set the current page scale from known dimensions. Trace LF, SF or counts. Verify wall heights, sides, openings and deductions before converting quantities into paint scope.

Price and review

Use Painting estimate, Takeoff, Assemblies and CSI Templates as appropriate. Verify coverage, coats, production, loaded rates and vendor prices. Avoid applying the same scope twice. Review tax, material markup, complexity, waste, overhead, profit and bid adjustments.

Issue and retain

Review bid and proposal scope, exclusions, alternates and totals. Retain the approved estimate revision and original sources. Back up authorized project files before changing devices. Document export restrictions continue to apply.

Current automation limits

Specification assistance, calibrated manual takeoff, straight-vector previews and reviewed room assembly workflows are available. Scanned-plan OCR, automatic scale and autonomous painting-scope takeoff remain unavailable.

Owner and collaborator access with Google Authenticator

Open the private team portal using your approved email and your own phone.

1. Request your sign-in link

Open /team-access and enter your approved email. Shawn uses shawn@spcombsestimatingsolutions.com; Josh uses joshcombsdesigns@gmail.com; Will uses will.combs@gmail.com. Access is assigned on the server, not by entering a name.

2. Verify your email

Open the new secure sign-in email within 15 minutes. Only use a message you requested. The link opens the app portal directly; you do not sign in to a ChatGPT or Google website.

3. Enroll your own phone

First visit only: open Google Authenticator, choose + and Scan a QR code, then scan the private QR on the setup page. You may enter its setup key as a Time based account instead. Never send this QR or key to anyone.

4. Verify and retain recovery codes

Enter the six-digit Paint Takeoff System code. Save the eight recovery codes shown once in a secure password manager. Each recovery code can be used once with a fresh email sign-in link.

5. Return securely

Later visits require a fresh email link plus a new Authenticator code. Sessions expire after eight hours. Set your phone time automatically. A used code cannot be reused. Existing legacy team access stops authorizing the account after Authenticator enrollment.

Example

Shawn's new contact email opens the retained owner account. Josh receives a separate permanent estimating account.

Google Authenticator is an app that generates codes. This portal is not Google OAuth or a change to your Google Account password.

Only the account holder should enroll the phone or handle recovery codes. If both phone and recovery codes are lost, contact Shawn; an email alone cannot reset the enrolled key.

Watch this updated how-to video

Precision scale and point-to-point measurement

Calibrate one plan page and trace quantities while keeping the target visible.

1. Choose the correct page

Import the drawing through Plans & specifications. Open Plan measurement, select its document and page, and confirm the drawing revision. Source files remain on the importing device.

2. Set a precise cursor

Use Settings > Appearance and the plan interaction settings to select a small dot or precision cursor and a small grab-hand cursor. Zoom around the intended target. Right-click and hold to pan; release before setting points.

3. Calibrate both directions

Use two known horizontal points and two known vertical points on this page. Enter the dimension values and verify both directions. If no vertical dimension is available, use the supported single-horizontal architect-scale path and verify a second known length.

4. Trace in page coordinates

Select Linear for point-to-point LF or Area for SF. Click the exact endpoints or boundary corners. Review wall height and openings separately; floor area is not wall surface area.

5. Check a known dimension

Compare a saved measurement against a second dimension. Changing zoom should not change the measured quantity. Page calibration is not automatically applied to another sheet or revised drawing.

Example

A 20 ft line should remain 20 LF after zooming or panning. Wall paint SF also needs verified height, sides and deductions.

Do not estimate a scale from a screenshot or an unverified title-block note.

Curved lines, distorted scans and missing dimensions require additional manual review.

Watch this updated how-to video

Room review and coating assembly transfer

Turn reviewed room geometry into priced wall and ceiling assemblies.

1. Calibrate and restrict detection

On a calibrated vector PDF page, choose the search region and quantity filters. Detect closed room candidates or manually trace an area and use that saved area.

2. Verify room geometry

Review each corner, wall face and open doorway. Confirm the inside perimeter. A suggested room name is only drawing-text evidence; it does not determine the paint scope.

3. Verify height and finish

For each included wall face, enter and verify its height, source, finish and coating template. Exclude surfaces outside scope. The ceiling is separately included and reviewed.

4. Deduct openings and approve

Enter each opening's dimensions, count and source on the affected face. Review net SF and approve the room. Adjacent rooms may include the opposite sides of a shared wall.

5. Transfer and price

Transfer approved quantities to CSI assemblies in your own workspace. Verify product coverage, coats, production and rates, then apply costs. Retransferring replaces that room's assemblies and clears its earlier generated costs.

Example

20 LF x 10 ft = 200 gross wall SF. A 3 ft x 7 ft door gives 179 net SF on that wall face.

Vector candidates are suggestions, not an autonomous painting takeoff. Scanned pages, curves, doorway gaps and hidden layers need manual review.

Changes invalidate the room review. Reapprove and transfer again before applying updated costs. Will can test room drafts; Shawn and Josh save in their own accounts.

Watch this updated how-to video

Sandblasting and metal preparation assemblies

Build a preparation estimate from the specified method and verified project inputs.

1. Choose the specified preparation

Open Assemblies > Sandblasting and surface preparation. Choose NACE No. 2 / SSPC-SP 10 Near-White Metal, or the other applicable blasting, solvent, hand or power-tool method. Select the correct substrate.

2. Record scope and area

Use manual SF or link an SF measurement. Record contract standard edition, specification reference, surface condition, profile and acceptance reference. Standards identify preparation requirements; they do not establish your production rate.

3. Enter crew and production inputs

Production is SF per crew process hour. Specify crew size and whether the loaded labor rate covers the entire crew or one worker hour. Enter utilization, setup, cleanup, equipment and shift assumptions.

4. Price abrasive and support costs

Choose abrasive flow per blasting hour or pounds per SF. Enter waste, price per pound and purchase increment if needed. Add applicable consumables, inspection, containment, mobilization and measured disposal allowances.

5. Review and replace costs

Verify the current rates and production source and date, then approve and apply the assembly. Reapplying replaces its earlier generated lines. Changed inputs flag earlier costs. Review project tax, markup and quantity/complexity factors to avoid duplicate allowances.

Example

1,000 SF / 100 SF per process hour = 10 hours. 500 lb/hr x 10 x 1.10 = 5,500 lb. Media $825 + whole-crew labor $450 + equipment $200 = $1,475 direct, before project pricing controls.

The source example is illustrative and does not populate a current supplier quote or wage. It must be replaced with verified project rates before bidding.

A coating application system is separate from surface preparation. No preset certifies compliance; use the contract's specified standard edition and acceptance criteria.

Watch this updated how-to video

Josh's portal and internal collaboration

Keep estimating work private while coordinating design, testing and development.

1. Open your own portal

Use Owner / collaborator access or the Joshua J. Combs footer link, then verify your email and Authenticator code. The portal shows the account holder's name and assigned role.

2. Work in your estimating account

Josh has lifetime administrator and co-editor access to his own workspace, including the live beta tools. Existing customer and company workspaces remain separate.

3. Build and test assemblies

Save your own coating templates and preparation assemblies. Use a synthetic practice project to test quantities and rates. Josh's edits do not overwrite Shawn's saved estimates.

4. Share development findings

Record design changes, defects, reproduction steps and expected results in the shared development plan. Check the revision. Reload when another colleague saved first.

5. Review source changes separately

Application source code and releases use the Site development workspace. External viewing permission does not grant source editing. Shawn must add Josh as a workspace member/editor before Josh can commit or publish source changes.

Example

A useful finding includes the page, input values, reproduction steps, actual result and expected result.

The shared plan is editable by Shawn and Josh; Will can review it. It does not execute or deploy source code.

Do not put customer credentials, setup keys, recovery codes or private bid documents into shared development notes.

Watch this updated how-to video