

Broad Classification of Estimates

Main Categories

Estimates in civil engineering are primarily classified into two main types based on their accuracy and purpose:

- 1 Approximate (Preliminary) Estimate
- 2 Detailed Estimate

Other special types (Revised, Supplementary, etc.) are variations or updates of the detailed estimate.

Approximate vs Detailed Estimate

Approximate Estimate	Detailed Estimate
Quick and less accurate.	Highly accurate and time-consuming.
Prepared using empirical methods (Plinth area, etc.).	Prepared by calculating exact quantities from working drawings.
Used for Administrative Approval.	Used for Technical Sanction.
Required before detailed design.	Required after detailed design is finalized.

Types of Detailed Estimates

Revised Estimate: Prepared when the sanctioned estimate cost exceeds by $> 5\%$ or admin approval by $> 10\%$, due to rate changes or material deviations.

Supplementary Estimate: Prepared for additional works required during execution, which were not foreseen in the original estimate.

Repair & Maintenance: For routine upkeep (Annual Repair) or major renewals (Special Repair).

Renovation Estimate: For modernizing or upgrading an existing facility.

Estimate Lifecycle Diagram

