

If you live in Cape Coral long enough, lanai screen damage stops feeling like a surprise and starts feeling like part of homeownership. Wind, sun, salt in the air, fast-growing trees, and the occasional flying branch all take their turn. One day you notice a small tear near the bottom panel. A month later, a corner starts pulling loose. Then storm season rolls through and suddenly you are pricing out a full rescreen instead of a quick patch.

That is usually when the real questions start. How much does it cost to repair a lanai screen? How much does it cost to rescreen a lanai in Florida? Is it worth fixing a broken screen, or should you replace everything at once? The short answer is that prices vary a lot, but not randomly. Once you know what drives the cost, the estimates make much more sense.

In Cape Coral, most homeowners will find that a simple screen repair might run anywhere from about \$75 to \$250 for a small job, while a larger lanai rescreen can easily reach into the hundreds or several thousand dollars depending on size, height, material, and frame condition. Those are broad ranges on purpose. A compact single-panel fix is a very different project from rescreening a wide pool enclosure after years of sun damage.

Why Cape Coral pricing is its own thing

Florida is not a typical screen market. Lanai screens here are not just decorative, and they are not dealing with mild weather. They are expected to keep out bugs, handle heavy UV exposure, survive wet season storms, and still let the breeze through. That means the materials matter more, the labor matters more, and the consequences of a cheap job show up faster.

Cape Coral adds a few extra wrinkles. Many homes have larger lanais and pool cages, often with tall panels and wide spans. Accessibility can be tricky if landscaping is tight, the deck is narrow, or the enclosure has roof lines that make upper sections harder to reach. Contractors also price based on travel, demand, and post-storm volume. After a strong wind event, rates can firm up simply because every good screen company in the area is booked.

A homeowner who moved from another state and asks, "What's the average cost to rescreen a porch?" may be surprised by Florida numbers. A porch in a milder climate is often a simpler structure. A Florida lanai or pool enclosure usually involves different screen grades, larger dimensions, and more weather exposure.

What lanai rescreening usually costs

Most contractors price screen work one of two ways. For small repairs, they often quote by the panel or by the service call. For larger work, especially full lanai rescreening, they may quote by square footage, by wall section, or by the overall enclosure.

As a practical guide, here is what many Cape Coral homeowners can expect:

- Small hole or single-panel repair often falls around \$75 to \$150
- Multiple panel repairs commonly land around \$150 to \$400
- Rescreening a small lanai may run roughly \$800 to \$1,800
- Medium to large lanais often fall between \$1,500 and \$4,000
- Large pool cages or specialty jobs can exceed \$4,000, especially if structural work is involved

Those numbers are not promises, but they are realistic starting points. If you are wondering, "How much does it usually cost to fix a screen?" the answer depends less on the screen itself and more on the scope around it. A tiny

tear that is easy to reach can be cheap. A torn panel twenty feet up at the edge of a pool cage is a different story.

I have seen homeowners get nervous when two estimates for the same property differ by several hundred dollars. Usually the gap comes down to what each company includes. One quote may cover only replacing torn panels. Another may include replacing old spline, tightening loose areas, checking door screens, hauling off debris, and matching screen type across the whole lanai. Ask **porch rescreening lanai** exactly what is being replaced and what is not.

The biggest factors behind the price

The easiest way to make sense of an estimate is to look at the variables that actually change labor and material costs.

- Size of the lanai or enclosure
- Number of damaged panels versus full rescreening
- Screen material and mesh grade
- Height and ease of access
- Condition of the aluminum frame, fasteners, and spline

Size is obvious, but there is more to it than square footage. A small lanai with lots of narrow sections and awkward angles can take longer than a cleaner, more open layout. Full rescreening costs more upfront, yet it can be cheaper per panel than piecemeal repair when the whole enclosure is aging out.

Screen material matters too. Standard fiberglass is common and affordable. Stronger options, such as pet-resistant or heavier-duty screen, cost more but can make sense if you have dogs, kids, or frequent damage near doors. Some homeowners ask, "Is a 20x20 screen worth it?" In many cases, yes, if your priority is keeping out smaller insects. A 20x20 mesh is tighter than standard options and can help with no-see-ums, but it may reduce airflow slightly and can cost more. The right answer depends on whether you value bug protection more than maximum breeze.

Height changes labor more than most people expect. If the crew needs ladders, scaffolding, or extra setup time, the price climbs. Upper cage panels are slower and riskier than ground-level wall sections. This is why "How much to screen in a small lanai?" does not always have a simple answer. A physically small space with difficult roof geometry can still cost more than you expect.

Then there is the condition of everything holding the screen in place. If the spline is brittle, channels are corroded, or the frame is slightly twisted, a clean rescreen becomes harder. Sometimes homeowners think they are paying only for mesh, but much of the value is in removing old material without damaging the frame and installing the new screen with even tension so it does not sag or pull out.

Repair versus full rescreen, which one actually saves money?

This is where judgment matters. A lot of screen damage looks local when it really is not. One torn panel may be the only visible failure, but the neighboring panels can be just as sun-baked and close behind.

If your lanai screen is only a few years old and one section ripped because a branch hit it, repair usually makes sense. If the enclosure is older, patchwork repairs can turn into repeated service calls. I have seen homeowners pay for three or four separate repairs over two years and end up spending more than if they had just rescreened the whole thing at the start.

How long do lanai screens last in Florida? A fair rule of thumb is around 8 to 15 years, depending on screen quality, sun exposure, storm history, and how well the enclosure was installed. Some fail sooner in harsh conditions. Some last longer if the property is sheltered and well maintained. Near the coast or in places with intense afternoon sun, aging often shows up earlier.

So, is it worth fixing a broken screen? Usually yes, if the damage is isolated and the rest of the enclosure still has life left in it. If the screen is brittle, faded, loose, and tearing in more than one place, repair becomes a short-term bandage.

A good contractor will tell you which camp you are in without much hesitation. If they recommend full lanai rescreening, ask them why. The answer should be specific. They should point to sun rot, multiple weak panels, failing spline, or clear age-related deterioration, not just a general sales pitch.

What about screen patches and tape?

A lot of homeowners ask, "How do I repair a hole in my lanai screen?" because they want a quick fix before guests arrive or before mosquitoes get out of hand. Screen repair tape exists for a reason, and yes, it can help. But the better question is, "Does screen repair tape actually work?" Sometimes.

For tiny holes in a low-stress area, patch tape can buy you time. It is cheap, easy, and available at most hardware stores. It is also obvious up close, tends to fail faster in harsh Florida sun, and does not look great on a prominent lanai wall. If the tear is longer, near an edge, or in a panel under tension, tape is temporary at best.

There are also patch kits that use a small piece of matching mesh woven or adhered into the damaged area. These can look cleaner than tape if done carefully. They still are not the same as replacing the panel.

If you are only trying to get through a week or two, a patch is fine. If [Lanai Screen Enclosure Repair](#) you care about appearance, resale, or long-term durability, replace the damaged section.

Do it yourself rescreening, where it works and where it goes sideways

Many homeowners at some point type in "Do it yourself rescreening?" or "How do I rescreen my lanai?" after seeing the price of professional labor. I understand the instinct. Materials by themselves can look manageable. The problem is that lanai rescreening is one of those jobs that appears easy until you are halfway through a panel with wrinkles, uneven tension, and spline that keeps popping out.

If you are handy and working on a small, reachable wall section, DIY can be realistic. You need the right mesh, proper spline size, a spline roller, a utility knife, patience, and a second set of hands. You also need to be comfortable removing the old screen cleanly and keeping even tension so the new panel lies flat without being overstretched.

How to replace screen porch mesh sounds simple on paper. Pull out the old spline, remove the damaged mesh, cut a new piece larger than the opening, press it into the frame channel with fresh spline, and trim the excess. In practice, the details matter. Too much tension can bow the frame or cause premature tearing. Too little leaves sagging. A bad corner cut can become the weak spot that fails first.

DIY gets much riskier when the panel is overhead, high off the ground, or part of a larger pool enclosure. At that point you are not just replacing mesh, you are dealing with ladder safety, awkward body positioning, and the challenge of keeping material controlled in the wind. One crooked upper panel can stand out every time you look at the cage.

Homeowners also ask, "Does ACE Hardware do rescreening?" and "How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens?" In most cases, stores like Ace or Home Depot may sell the materials and tools you need, and some locations may offer or refer certain screen repair services for window screens or basic projects. But lanai and pool cage rescreening is usually handled by specialized local contractors rather than in-store service counters. If a big-box store connects you with an installer, the pricing and quality still depend on that local provider.

ALL SCREENING OF SWFL
1802 SW 12TH TERRACE
CAPE CORAL, FL 33991



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SCREEN IN A SMALL LANAI IN CAPE CORAL? ALL SCREENING OF SWFL HAS THE ANSWER

 [HTTPS://ALLSCREENINGOFSWFL.COM/LANAI-SCREEN-REPAIR/](https://allscreeningofswfl.com/lanai-screen-repair/)

 **(239) 692-4041**

Small lanai, big lanai, and why price per foot can mislead

A smaller lanai is not always proportionally cheaper. If you are asking, "How much to screen in a small lanai?" the ballpark might be a few hundred dollars for a minimal repair or somewhere around \$800 to \$1,800 for a more complete small-space rescreen, but fixed costs still apply. The crew has to travel, set up, remove old material, install new screen, and clean up whether the enclosure is compact or expansive.

That is one reason price per square foot can be deceptive. Contractors rarely work from material cost alone. Labor drives a lot of the bill. A very small job can actually have a higher effective cost per foot because the setup and service call are spread over less area.

On the flip side, a full rescreen on a larger lanai may seem expensive at first glance, but the per-panel or per-foot cost can be more favorable than repeated repairs. If the enclosure has reached the point where more than a few panels are weak, full replacement often looks better financially over the next several years.

A real-world way to judge your quote

If you receive an estimate and want to know whether it is reasonable, do not focus only on the total. Ask what kind of mesh is being installed, whether all spline is replaced, how damaged areas of the frame are handled,

whether the quote includes haul-away, and whether the work is warrantied. A slightly higher price can be a better deal if the installer uses quality screen, tensions it properly, and stands behind the work.

Here are a few smart questions to ask before you book:

- Is this a panel repair quote or a full rescreen quote
- What screen material and mesh size are included
- Will you replace old spline throughout the job
- Are frame repairs included if you find minor issues
- How soon after storms can you schedule warranty or follow-up work

A contractor who answers clearly is usually easier to work with from start to finish. Vague estimates lead to change orders, delays, and mismatched expectations.

The hidden costs homeowners forget to factor in

Price is not only about the invoice. There is also the cost of waiting too long. A broken screen lets in bugs, yes, but it can also let debris blow in around the pool or patio. If you have pets, children, or outdoor furniture you want to keep cleaner, the functional loss matters. For many Cape Coral homeowners, the lanai is not an extra space. It is daily living space.

There is also curb appeal. A single torn panel may not seem urgent, but several patched or sagging sections can make the whole enclosure look tired. If you are preparing to sell, buyers notice. They may not know the technical side of screen life, but they can absolutely tell when a lanai needs work.

Timing matters too. If you wait until late summer after a run of storms, you may have fewer scheduling options. Planning a rescreen before peak demand often gives you more contractor availability and a little more breathing room to compare pricing.

When a higher-grade screen makes sense

Homeowners sometimes default to the cheapest screen because they assume all mesh is basically the same. It is not. If your previous screen failed early because of pets pushing against the lower panels, stronger screen can be worth the premium. If your biggest complaint is tiny insects at dusk, tighter mesh may be worth it. If your lanai gets blasted by sun all afternoon, ask about materials known for durability in high-UV conditions.

That does not mean the most expensive option is automatically best. Heavier screen can reduce airflow a bit and may not be necessary in every section. I have seen good results when homeowners mix priorities sensibly, using tougher screen at vulnerable lower panels and standard screen elsewhere when the layout allows it.

If you are comparing quotes, make sure you are comparing the same material. One contractor may be quoting standard fiberglass while another includes a stronger specialty mesh. The totals will differ for a reason.

What a fair outcome looks like

A good lanai rescreen should look tight, clean, and consistent. The lines should be straight. The screen should not billow loosely or appear over-stretched. Corners should sit neatly. Doors should close properly, and the enclosure should feel finished, not pieced together.

When homeowners ask, "How much does it cost to replace a lanai screen?" they are often really asking how to avoid overpaying. The best answer is to buy the right scope of work, not just the lowest number. A small repair

should solve a small problem. A full rescreen should give the lanai a fresh, uniform life, not just swap in mesh while leaving old failing components behind.

Cape Coral homes get a lot of use out of their lanais. That space is where people drink coffee in the morning, watch afternoon rain move in, and sit outside without dealing with mosquitoes. When the screen starts failing, it is more than a cosmetic issue. It changes how the home feels day to day.

If your damage is minor, a simple repair may be all you need. If your enclosure is aging across multiple panels, lanai rescreening is usually the smarter long play. The key is to match the fix to the condition of the structure, the screen's age, and how you actually use the space. That is what keeps the price from feeling like a guess, and turns it into a decision that makes sense.