

Church pew restoration: the committee packet

hello@bethelfinishworks.com
bethelfinishworks.com · Riverton, Utah

One page to hand to the board. What the work is, what it costs, what we put in writing, and how to get a real number without a sales visit. Every figure here is published on our website and is the price we honor.

WHAT THE WORK IS

Pew reupholstery. New high-resiliency foam (2.8 lb, three firmnesses) and pew-grade contract fabric (100,000+ double rubs, mill-treated), fastened on site. The pews never leave the building.

Pew refinishing. *Refresh* (degrease, scuff, tone, recoat — what most rooms need), *refinish* (strip, stain, seal, topcoat) or *restore* (refinish plus structural repair). In the sanctuary, half the room at a time.

The rest of the room. Doors, pulpit, altar or sacrament table, rails, wainscot — the woodwork most pew companies will not quote. Same crew, same trip.

PUBLISHED PRICES · PER LINEAR FOOT

UPHOLSTERY	PER FT
Seats only	\$25–33
New fabric and foam on the seat	
Seats and backs	\$33–45
The most common scope	
Fully wrapped	\$50–60
Seat, back and end panels	
WOOD	PER FT
Refresh, on site	\$40–100
Degrease, scuff, tone, two coats	
Refinish, strip and recoat	\$120–200
Color change, or a failed finish	
Restore, full	\$100–230
Structural repair, splits, joinery, anchors	
EVERYTHING ELSE	TYPICAL
Entry or narthex door, per leaf	\$1,500–4,200
Pulpit or lectern	\$900–2,600
Altar, communion or sacrament table	\$1,100–3,400
Communion or chancel rail, per ft	\$55–140
Condition report	Free

WHO DOES THE WORK

Shawn Greenland and Jaren Dilby, owners. The people who quote the job are the people in your sanctuary; no subcontractors. Riverton, Utah. No travel charge in Utah; the travel line is shown on the quote for neighboring states.

A TYPICAL SANCTUARY

40 pews at 14 feet is about **560 linear feet**.

Seats and backs recovered	\$18,000–28,000
Plus an on-site wood refresh	\$40,000–85,000
Replacing with new solid-wood pews, before the floor is touched	from ~\$112,000

Replacement figures are typical quotes churches have shown us; get your own. Refinishing is right for roughly nine rooms in ten. We will tell you when yours is the tenth.

IN WRITING, ON EVERY CONTRACT

Sunday. If your sanctuary is not service-ready by 6 a.m. Sunday, that week's labor is free. Half the room is worked at a time; services, weddings and funerals continue. Carve-outs, written next to it: weather that closes the road, delays on the church's side, and events already on the calendar when we scheduled.

Ten years. If a seam opens, a finish lifts or a repair fails because of how we did the work, we come back and make it right. Transferable to whoever runs the building next.

The spec. Foam density and ILD, fabric mill and double-rub rating, finish product and VOC — written into the contract, data sheets in your file. What we quote is what goes in.

HOW TO GET A NUMBER

- Fastest:** email four photos and a pew count to hello@bethelfinishworks.com. Written range in two business days. No visit, no call unless you want one.
The whole room from the back · one pew end in daylight · under a seat looking toward the end · the worst spot you know about.
- Free condition report:** two hours in your sanctuary, every pew photographed and graded, the failure mode named, one section refinished while you watch, and a written three-tier budget.
Yours whether or not you hire us.
- Calculator:** bethelfinishworks.com/cost — runs in your browser, nothing is sent to us.

Six questions to ask every bidder

Quotes for this work range from \$16 to \$230 a foot and most of them are honest — they just describe different work, and almost nobody says which. These six questions make any two quotes comparable. Our answers are in the right-hand column so you can hold us to them.

ASK	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
What foam density and ILD, for the seat and for the back?	Density decides how long foam lasts; ILD decides how it feels. Builder-grade 1.5 lb foam loses a quarter of its height within a few years. One number for the whole pew means a seat too soft or a back too hard.	2.8 lb high-resiliency foam. Seat ~35–40 ILD, back ~24–28, kneeler ~45–50. Dacron wrap over every core. Written into the contract.
What fabric, what double-rub rating, and is the stain treatment mill-applied?	Pews are heavy-duty use: 30,000 double rubs is the ACT floor; pew-grade goods run 100,000 and up. A spray-on treatment is gone after the second shampoo; a mill treatment survives the life of the fabric.	Contract mills (Absecon, Tahoe and comparable), pew-grade goods rated 100,000+ double rubs, mill-applied treatment, CAL 117-2013 / NFPA 260 certificate on file. Samples left in your sanctuary for a week before the vote.
What finish product, and what is its VOC?	Solvent lacquer sprayed in a sanctuary is a fume, fire and organ problem, and it does not cure well over old oil. The product name tells you whether the bidder has thought about your room.	Waterborne conversion varnish, roughly 250 g/L VOC against 500+ for solvent lacquer. Product and data sheet named in the contract.
Who will actually be in our building?	Several large firms sell the job and subcontract the work. The person who quoted your church may never see it.	The two owners. No subcontractors.
Will we lose a Sunday, and what happens if we do?	Everyone says no. Ask what it costs them if the answer turns out to be yes.	Half the room at a time. Service-ready by 6 a.m. Sunday or that week's labor is free. In the contract.
What is the warranty, in writing, and does it transfer?	A verbal warranty leaves with the salesman. A warranty that does not transfer leaves with your building committee.	Ten years on workmanship, written, transferable to whoever runs the building next.

BEFORE THE VOTE, LOOK UNDER A SEAT

Solid wood shows continuous grain through the thickness; veneer shows a thin skin over something else. Push a pew end sideways at the top — firm means the joinery is sound. If both pass, the pews are worth keeping, and refinishing costs a fifth to a third of replacement.

If the veneer has lifted, chipped or been sanded through, refinishing is not an option and we will say so. We do not sell pews, so we have no reason to steer you either way.

HOW THE WEEK RUNS

- Monday: first half of the room comes apart; pews stay anchored.
- Friday: first half finished and back in service.
- Sunday: full room in use, one half new.
- Following week: second half.
- A funeral mid-week: we clear the room and pick up after.

Reupholstery, one to two weeks. With a wood refresh, two to four. Fabric lead time (one to eight weeks) happens before we schedule, not during the job.