
Need advice on whether or not to buy skid steer (bobcat)

Posted by mschroet - 2004/05/11 15:58

I'm a small builder building 5-7 houses per year. I'm contemplating whether to buy a skid steer. I would use it mainly for backfill, grading, landscaping, and moving materials, pallets, etc. for my own projects and possibly even some side projects. My hope is that it would more than pay for itself.

Is it practical to use a skid steer to backfill the foundation of an average to large home, or would it be less expensive in the long run to have the excavator do it?

I'm also thinking of renting it out occasionally to help it pay for itself. Would this be a mistake?

I would probably try to stay around \$10,000 on a used machine. Could this get me a machine that is reliable?

The bottom line is that I'm trying to determine whether I would end up loving the machine and never looking back or if I would regret it because of maintenance costs, lack of use, etc.

Any input is appreciated. Thanks in advance.

Mike

Re: Need advice on whether or not to buy skid steer (bobcat)

Posted by coleconstructionanddesign - 2004/07/29 21:38

I have many and i would really suggest you getting one, it will make your life a whole lot easier. Now under 10,000 might be tough, I would say you could get a good one for 15,000 with some use.

Cole McConnell
Cole Construction and Design
Dallas, Tx

Re: Need advice on whether or not to buy skid steer (bobcat)

Posted by contractorgradeDOTcom - 2004/09/17 18:11

If you rent the equipment out make sure you, and the folks renting it, keep good meter readings. If a breakdown occurs who will foot the bill for the repair? Be sure your rental fee will cover any non-scheduled repairs. I would stay away from renting it out, but like you said you might have to, because we all know rentals don't get that loving care they should. Diligent PM records can save you money in long run; Track fuel gallons and meter readings.

Re: Need advice on whether or not to buy skid steer (bobcat)

Posted by simondevelopments - 2009/03/31 16:06

When you are ready to rent or buy a bobcat, I would suggest checking out this listing of Bobcat skid steers to see which one would best fit your needs.

Re: Need advice on whether or not to buy skid steer (bobcat)

Posted by elementkitchen - 2009/06/12 05:04

Tough question. I guess the answer is how often you rent them and what the cost is. If rental for a bobcat is \$400 per day and you are renting them in excess of 10k in a 2 year period, it would be good to look into buying one. If you are only using one here and there and would take you over 3 years spend 10k on rentals, it may be better just to keep renting.

Buying there are other things to think about like storage, repair, upkeep, etc. We don't have one but a friend of mine has one that we use when we need. Its great (and i mean great) when we need it but I would never need one myself because

of the low frequency of use.

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