

---

## 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.

=====