PENNY PINCH DIY
FREE MINI PROJECT PLANNER

Plan it. Price it. Build it.

5 simple pages to take a project from idea to action.

For projects at home, in the garden, at work, in a workshop—or wherever your next good idea happens.

Penny Pinch principle

A smaller budget does not require smaller ideas. Plan carefully, compare costs, reuse what makes sense, and spend where safety, durability, or finish really matters.

And remember:
The project may express an opinion. Adjust the plan accordingly.

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1. PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Start with the result—not the trip to the hardware store.

Project name	
Space / location	
Start date	
Target finish	
Main goal	
Must-have result	

What does finished look like?

My top 3 priorities

1	
2	
3	

2. QUICK BUDGET

Give every dollar a job before the project volunteers it for something else.

CATEGORY	PLANNED	ACTUAL
Materials		
Tools / rentals		
Decor / finishing		
Help / contractors		
Delivery / disposal		
Contingency		
Other		
TOTAL		

Where can I save without compromising the result?

3. MATERIALS & SHOPPING

Designed to reduce the number of “I forgot one thing” journeys.

ITEM	QTY	EST. COST	SOURCE	BOUGHT

Reuse / borrow / already have:

4. ACTION PLAN & REALITY CHECK

Break the project into jobs small enough that optimism can survive them.

STEP	TASK	TARGET	DONE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Things YouTube failed to mention:

If the project changes its mind:

YOU'VE GOT A PLAN.

Now go make something brilliant without letting the budget run feral.

Want more room to plan?

The full Penny Pinch DIY Project Planner expands this mini version with measurements, tools and equipment, price comparison, progress tracking, project changes, before-and-after pages, a full wrap-up—and the Official DIY Incident Report.

Also in the Penny Pinch DIY collection: 2027 Home & Project Calendar

Visit pennypinchdiy.com

For personal use. Follow manufacturer instructions, appropriate safety guidance, and applicable local requirements for your project.