

If you live in Florida, hurricane season has a way of turning small wear-and-tear issues into obvious repairs overnight. A lanai screen that looked “good enough” in July can be hanging loose, torn, or blown out by October. I have seen homeowners go from one tiny corner rip to a full Lanai rescreening job after one windy weekend, especially when the spline was already brittle and the frame had started to flex.

So, how much does it cost to replace a lanai screen after hurricane season? In most cases, a simple single-panel repair might run about \$75 to \$150. Replacing several damaged panels often lands in the \$200 to \$600 range. A full rescreen of a small lanai may cost around \$800 to \$1,500, while a larger enclosure can climb to \$2,000 to \$4,000 or more, depending on size, screen material, height, access, and whether the aluminum structure also needs work.

Those are broad ranges, but they are realistic. The price changes a lot based on what actually failed. After storms, the screen mesh is only part of the story. You may also be dealing with bent framing, pulled fasteners, weakened spline channels, doors that no longer close right, or roof panels that shifted just enough to put strain on the walls.

Why hurricane season changes the price

Replacing a lanai screen in March is not the same as replacing one in late September or October. Demand spikes after storms. Good crews get booked out. Material availability can tighten up, especially if a storm affects a wide stretch of the state. That backlog alone can nudge prices upward.

There is also the condition of the enclosure itself. A normal aging screen job is usually straightforward. A post-storm job can be messy. Contractors may need to remove shredded mesh tangled into framing, reset sections that have twisted, or work around wet decks, damaged pool cages, and landscaping debris. Even if the visible tear seems minor, the labor can be more involved than homeowners expect.

That is why the answer to “How much does it usually cost to fix a screen?” depends on whether you are talking about a clean repair or a storm-season repair. The same panel can cost more when a crew has to travel farther, source material during a rush, and spend extra time making the enclosure sound again.

Typical cost ranges for lanai screen replacement

Let’s get into practical numbers, because that is what most people really want.

A small hole or tear in one panel, if the frame is still solid, often costs less than a major replacement. If a company offers minimum service calls, you might pay \$75 to \$150 even for a quick repair. That price is not just for the patch or panel, it covers travel, setup, labor, and the fact that small jobs still take a crew away from larger work.

If several panels are damaged, pricing is often quoted per panel or by the square foot. In Florida, many companies charge roughly \$35 to \$75 per panel for standard screen replacement, though larger or awkward panels can cost more. If you have ten damaged panels, the number adds up quickly.

For homeowners asking, “How much does it cost to rescreen a lanai in Florida?”, full rescreening is where the bigger budgets come in. A modest lanai or porch enclosure may cost about \$800 to \$1,500 for standard mesh. A medium-size enclosure might land between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Bigger lanais, especially pool enclosures or custom builds with tall spans, can cost \$2,500 to \$4,000 and sometimes more.

A lot depends on the mesh you choose. Standard fiberglass is the most budget-friendly. Upgraded materials, such as stronger polyester screens or specialty no-see-um mesh, cost more in both material and labor. Tighter mesh can be harder to install cleanly, and stronger products sometimes need more care to tension properly.

What affects the final bill

A lanai is not priced like a simple window screen. It is a structural enclosure with large spans, weather exposure, and often unusual dimensions. The [porch enclosure repair lanai](#) biggest price drivers tend to be these:

- the size of the enclosure and the number of panels involved
- the type of screen mesh you choose
- storm-related frame or door damage
- labor demand in your area after hurricane season
- height, access, and job complexity

Size sounds obvious, but panel layout matters almost as much as square footage. A lanai with many narrow sections can take more labor than one with fewer large openings. Every panel means fitting mesh, cutting spline, rolling it in, trimming edges, and checking tension.

Screen type matters too. Standard 18x14 fiberglass is common and affordable. Some homeowners ask, "Is a 20x20 screen worth it?" It can be, especially if tiny insects are a big issue where you live. A 20x20 mesh keeps out smaller bugs better than standard screen, but it reduces airflow a bit and usually costs more. If your lanai faces marshy areas or backs up to standing water, many people feel the upgrade is worth the trade.

Access is another hidden cost. A first-floor lanai with wide-open access is easier to rescreen than a tall pool cage with landscaping packed around it. If ladders, specialty equipment, or extra safety measures are needed, labor prices rise.

How much to screen in a small lanai?

This is one of the most common budgeting questions. For a small lanai, think in terms of roughly \$800 to \$1,500 for a full rescreen if the framework is in decent shape. On the lower end, you are usually looking at standard mesh and straightforward access. On the higher end, you may have upgraded screen, a lot of narrow sections, or some post-storm repairs folded into the job.

If only a few panels on a small lanai are torn, you may spend as little as \$150 to \$400 rather than doing the full enclosure. That leads to a practical judgment call. Is it worth fixing a broken screen panel by panel, or are you throwing good money at old materials?

My rule of thumb is simple. If the existing screens are aging across the enclosure, with fading, looseness, and multiple weak spots, spot repairs become less economical. You fix one panel now, another one tears next month, and a third one pops when the first cold front blows through. At that point, full Lanai rescreening often makes more sense.

How long do lanai screens last in Florida?

Florida is rough on screen enclosures. Heat, UV exposure, salt air near the coast, afternoon storms, tree debris, and pressure changes all shorten lifespan. In many cases, lanai screens last around 8 to 15 years, sometimes

longer if conditions are mild and maintenance is good. Near the coast, or in high-wind zones, the timeline may be shorter.

After about the ten-year mark, I start seeing more jobs where the screen is not just torn, it is tired. It gets chalky, brittle, stretched, and less resilient. The spline can harden and shrink too. That is when one storm can turn minor weakness into widespread damage.

If your enclosure is older and you are asking, "How much does it cost to replace a Lanai screen?" the honest answer may be that you are no longer talking about one screen. You may be talking about the whole system nearing the end of its useful life.

Repair or full rescreen?

Homeowners often hope for a cheap fix after a storm, and sometimes that is absolutely the right move. A clean puncture from a branch, a pet tear near the bottom, or a single blown-out panel can usually be repaired without much debate.

The harder cases are the ones where damage is scattered. Five torn panels on a fifteen-year-old lanai are not really five isolated issues. They are a warning sign. The enclosure has likely lost some of its overall tension and resilience.

"What's the average cost to rescreen a porch?" is a cousin to this question, because the same logic applies. Porch screens and lanais both become less cost-effective to patch when the mesh ages unevenly. If your porch or lanai has repeated failures, the labor spent on one-off fixes can approach the cost of starting fresh.

There is also appearance to think about. New panels installed next to faded old mesh can look mismatched. Some homeowners do not care. Others care a lot, especially if the lanai is a major part of the backyard view. A full rescreen gives a uniform look and can improve curb appeal more than people expect.

What about do it yourself rescreening?

Plenty of homeowners ask, "How do I rescreen my lanai?" or wonder about do it yourself rescreening to save money. For a single low panel, it is a reasonable project if you are patient, have the right tools, and do not mind a learning curve. For an entire lanai, it gets harder fast.

The basic process sounds simple enough:

- remove the old spline and damaged mesh
- clean the channel and inspect the frame
- cut new screen with extra overlap
- roll in new spline while keeping the mesh evenly tensioned
- trim the excess carefully with a sharp knife

That is the neat version. Real life includes corners that wrinkle, channels packed with old debris, sections that go loose after you thought they were done, and frames that are slightly out of square from age or storm movement. Large panels are especially unforgiving. Too much tension can bow the frame. Too little leaves a baggy screen that flaps in every breeze.

DIY can save money on small jobs. If you are handy, a single-panel repair may only cost you for mesh, spline, a spline roller, and your time. But full-lanai work is where many homeowners realize the value of experienced labor.

Pros know how to tension broad spans, spot weak frame sections, and work efficiently without chewing up material.

How to replace screen porch mesh, and when not to

If you are looking up “How to replace screen porch mesh?” the technique overlaps with lanai work, but porches are often more forgiving than larger enclosures. Still, there are times when replacing mesh yourself is not the best idea.

If the spline groove is cracked, if the aluminum framing is bent, or if the enclosure took a direct hit during a storm, the screen itself may not be the real problem. Installing fresh mesh into a compromised frame usually leads to frustration. The panel may not hold properly, or it may fail again under the next good gust.

There is also a safety piece. Tall panels, pool cages, and second-story sections should not be casual weekend projects. Between ladders, awkward reach, and sharp tools, it only takes one bad angle to turn a money-saving plan into an expensive accident.

Does screen repair tape actually work?

It works, but only in a limited way.

If you are asking, “How do I repair a hole in my lanai screen?” and the hole is small, screen repair tape or a patch kit can be a decent short-term fix. It is useful when you need to stop bugs from getting in before a professional can come out, or when the damage is minor and in a low-visibility corner.

It is not a long-term answer for storm damage, tension failures, or large tears. Florida sun is hard on adhesives. Heat and moisture wear them down. Even the better tapes tend to look like what they are, a patch. For a rental property or a quick seasonal stopgap, maybe that is fine. For a main outdoor living space, most homeowners are happier replacing the panel.

This ties into the bigger question, “Is it worth fixing a broken screen?” If the fix is truly a stopgap, and you know that going in, then yes. If you expect tape to perform like a proper rescreen, you will probably be disappointed.

Big-box stores and hardware shops, what they actually do

People often ask, “Does ACE hardware do rescreening?” or “How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens?” The answer depends on the store and what kind of screen you mean.

Many hardware stores will sell you the materials for small screen repair. Some may offer repair services for portable window screens or screen doors through in-store departments or local contractor referrals. That is very different from full lanai work. A lanai enclosure is usually handled by specialty screen or aluminum contractors, not by the average hardware counter.

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So if you are trying to compare costs, be careful not to mix categories. A store quote for a small removable screen panel is not comparable to a site-built lanai enclosure. The tools and materials may overlap, but the labor, scale, and liability do not.

Choosing the right screen material after storm damage

A repair after hurricane season is a good chance to think about whether your old material was really working for you. Standard fiberglass remains the most common choice because it is affordable, easy to work with, and looks clean. It is fine for many homeowners.

If durability is the priority, stronger screen products may be worth the premium. Some resist tearing better, which helps if you have pets, active kids, or heavy debris around the yard. If insects are your main issue, tighter no-see-um style mesh helps, though it can slightly reduce airflow and brightness.

That brings us back to "Is a 20x20 screen worth it?" In some settings, yes. In others, not really. If your lanai gets a constant barrage of tiny gnats, the upgrade is easy to justify. If bugs are only an occasional nuisance and you love maximum breeze, standard mesh may be the better fit.

A good contractor will usually walk through these trade-offs with you instead of pushing the most expensive option.

Hidden damage homeowners miss after a storm

One reason estimates vary so much is that screen tears are often the visible symptom, not the full repair scope. I have seen lanais where the homeowner focused on two shredded panels, but the actual trouble was a door frame pulled just enough out of alignment that it kept stressing nearby sections. I have also seen cages where fasteners

loosened, roof straps shifted, or a horizontal member twisted slightly. Those issues do not always jump out from the patio.

That is why post-storm estimates can feel inconsistent from company to company. [Lanai Screen Enclosure Repair](#) One contractor may quote just the mesh you asked about. Another may include structural corrections needed to make the repair last. The second quote can look expensive until you understand what is actually being fixed.

When comparing bids, make sure you know whether they include only screen replacement or also frame tuning, door adjustments, spline replacement, and disposal of damaged material.

How to keep costs under control

The easiest way to save money is to avoid waiting too long. A loose panel often becomes a ripped panel. A ripped panel catches wind and can stress adjacent sections. What starts as one repair can spread, especially during storm season.

Another smart move is bundling work. If multiple panels are aging, it may be cheaper per panel to have them done together than to call someone out three separate times. The same logic applies if your lanai door, kick plate, or screen roof panels need attention.

If you live in a neighborhood with similar enclosures and the same storm hit several homes, sometimes nearby jobs can make scheduling easier and reduce mobilization headaches. Not every contractor prices that way, but it is worth asking.

So, what should you budget?

For a practical starting point after hurricane season, I would budget this way.

If you suspect a small repair, expect around \$75 to \$150 as a likely service-call range. If several panels are blown out, think more like \$200 to \$600. If your lanai is older or the damage is widespread, prepare for a full rescreen that may run \$800 to \$2,500 for many average enclosures, and more for large or complex setups.

That is the real answer to “How much does it cost to repair a lanai screen?” and “How much does it cost to replace a Lanai screen?” There is no one-size-fits-all number, but there is a predictable pattern. Small isolated damage stays relatively affordable. Age, scale, upgraded materials, and storm-related structural issues are what push the price higher.

If your enclosure has made it through years of Florida weather and only needs one panel, count yourself lucky. If the storm exposed bigger weaknesses, a complete Lanai rescreening may sting now but save money, hassle, and repeat service calls later. In Florida, that kind of judgment matters almost as much as the screen itself.