How Much Do TSCM Bug Sweeps Cost?

by Kevin D. Murray, CPP, CISM, CFE, CDPSE

"How Much do TSCM bug sweeps Cost?"

The cost of a TSCM bug sweep will depend on the type and category of the inspection. There are basically two types of bug sweeps, **Personal** and **Business**.

Personal Rates

This category of TSCM bug sweeps cost less that **Business** TSCM inspections. This is mostly due to the lower level of complexity, expertise and instrumentation required to achieve the desired results. The going rate for an average sized home in the United States can range from $1,500 to $6,000 depending upon: location, square footage, type of audio-visual equipment, number of vehicles included, and the expertise of the TSCM specialist.

Tip: Even the largest estates usually have less than 3-5 thousand square feet of sensitive areas that require a detailed inspection, and the radio-frequency / Wi-Fi analysis will cover the rest of the area by default. So, paying for more square footage is rarely necessary.

Commercial Rates

Professional commercial TSCM inspection costs are usually estimated on a custom basis. Items considered include:

• The square footage of sensitive areas which require a detailed physical inspection. If the inspection covers the whole office floor, do not use the square footage shown on the lease. Measure the sensitive areas individually. This will likely be about 30% less than what the lease states. Remember, the radio-frequency / Wi-Fi inspection will cover the other square footage by default.

Tip: To save money, create a priority list of your most sensitive areas. Have your TSCM

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specialist work their way down the list. At some point you will be able to say, "If we don't have a problem at this level we can stop." If a problem is detected, you can always continue the search. Remember, some of the evaluation techniques, like the radio-frequency and Wi-Fi analysis, will cover the entire area by default.

- The number and type of communications items, within the sensitive areas (or within earshot of), requiring a detailed inspection. This would normally include: telephones, speakerphones, teleconferencing equipment, audio-visual racks of equipment, etc.

  Specify if you also want to have difficult to inspect items in the area X-ray'ed. Although this will cost extra, it only needs to be done once. X-ray'ed items are tagged with discrete, tamperproof security seals to identify them as already inspected during future re-inspections.

- Are the rooms / areas contiguous (having shared walls).

- Travel expenses.

Special TSCM Bug Sweep Situations

Inspection of: construction / renovation projects, data centers, off-site meeting locations, transportation vehicles, special events, etc.

Tip: Obtain a line-item written estimate in advance, and never accept a per-hour based fee. You won't be able to control the cost.

From our experience, corporations budgeting between $30,000 and $50,000 per quarter are providing themselves with adequate, pro-active, TSCM coverage ab their headquarters locations.

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You may also want to read…

What are the Benefits of Conducting a TSCM Bug Sweep?[1]

How is a TSCM Bug Sweep Conducted?[2]

How Can You Tell if You or a Room is Bugged?[3]

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Murray Associates[4] is an independent security consulting firm, providing eavesdropping detection and counterespionage services to business, government and at-risk individuals.

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[1] https://counterespionage.com/what-are-the-benefits-of-a-tscm-bug-sweep/

[2] https://counterespionage.com/how-is-a-tscm-bug-sweep-conducted/

[3] https://counterespionage.com/how-to-tell-if-you-are-bugged/

[4] https://counterespionage.com/about-murray-associates/electronic-eavesdropping-detection/