IQ Outdoor Climbing Towers: Comparisons and Costs

Inner Quest builds a wide variety of custom climbing tower designs. In very public areas, towers can have access limitation created by beginning the wall well above ground level. Ground accessible towers are for use where access is already controlled by fencing or where measures like removing holds can be effective.

2-Pole Towers- The basic two-pole towers can be single or double sided and are generally 28' to 34' high. They have 3' wide platform on top for belaying and rappelling. There are two safety belay cables about 6' above the platform.

All towers are supported by new utility poles, are constructed of CCA or ACQ pressure-treated wood and all hardware is galvanized. Options are available for surfacing with Trex instead of treated wood and rock-textured urethane is also available.

The holds are modular rock which can be moved, removed and rotated as needed to create numerous possible route variations. Standard construction includes a low-angle climbing section which allows for more instructional options with beginner climbers and for teaching low-angle climbing techniques to advanced climbers. Towers with two or more sides generally include overhangs for advanced climbing.

The prices quoted below do not include the support poles and guy anchors which normally run about $2,200 installed. The cost for poles and guy anchors vary greatly from region to region and can sometimes be acquired as donations. We will be happy to assist with or handle negotiating for these with a local contractor/supplier.

Inner Quest has the capability to supply and install utility poles for you. If you would like to make those arrangements yourself, pole and guy anchor specifications are as follow:

- The utility poles need to be new, Class 2 minimum, CCA treated (Penta is acceptable) and installed to 10% of their length plus 2 feet.
- Poles for a 28' tower are 45 feet long and for a 34' tower are 50 feet long.
- In addition, six guy anchors are required. They should be 7-8 foot long expansion or screw-in type with a minimum holding capacity of 11,500 pounds.
- Anchor heads must be at least 6" above the ground. Specifications for layout of pole and guy installation are available on request.

Many different wall variations are possible including different heights, different wall surfaces, multiple-sided structures, etc. Some of the typical variations are listed below. We will be happy to customize a quote for any specific request.

- Basic 2-Pole Towers- $6,800; climbing surface 28'-34' high x 16' wide; requires two 45'-50' poles and four guy anchors.
- Double-sided Tower- $11,000; climbing surface is two sides 28'-34' high x 16' wide; same poles and anchors are required; an overhang and roof are included on one side.
- Roof / Overhang features- $600 to $1,500; if added to any single-sided wall (included on all double sided walls).
- Chimneys, Cracks, Laybacks, etc.- $600 to $1,500; depending on how extensive; these variations can be added to any version of the walls described.
**4-Pole Basic Tower** - Inner Quest builds a basic 4-pole climbing tower with numerous variations.

The basic tower has four sides, each of which is eight feet wide. Three sides are planked for climbing. Two sides are completely vertical and the third would be a low angle (less than vertical) section of wall for beginner climbers. There are four guy anchors to stabilize the tower, prevent fall-load and wind damage. There are eight belay cables, two over each side of the tower. There are movable granite holds on all three sides of the wall. The on the basic configuration of the wall, the climbing surfaces are 28' high.

The cost for the basic tower is $9,400, plus an estimated $4,000 for the support poles and guy anchors. A hipped roof can be added for $3,900 if desired.

The roof makes the tower look nice, but does not add much rainy-day protection. It does, however add some sun protection for those on top of the tower. A "free-rappel" section can be added to the fourth side of the tower for $600 and an internal steel spiral staircase for about $4,000. This tower, with four 10-sides runs about $11,400 and a 3-Pole version with 12-sides runs about $8,400. Other variations include shorter & taller versions, narrower & wider versions, etc.

**4-Pole Scissor Tower & Scissor Tower II** - The Scissor Tower is an Inner Quest original design. It is one of our most elaborate towers features two 36' tall by 16' wide climbing surfaces.

The really slick part of the design is that there are four completely different route configurations built-in combining low-angle, high angle, and overhanging variations. There are also options for adding a hipped roof and/or gear storage area.

The roof would offer some protection from sun and rain, but is more for looks than anything else. The cost for this tower is $16,900 plus approximately $4,300 for support poles.

The cost to add the two additional sides is approximately $7,500. The cost to add a roof would be $5,500 and to add a storage room would be $3,100. The Scissor Tower II is an ergonomic design with more subtle features. It allows for the addition of an internal staircase if desired. This variation runs about $18,500 for two sides and about $7,700 for the second two sides. The addition of internal stairs runs about $5,500.

**Red Rock (tm) molded wall systems** - Inner Quest is an exclusive dealer for the new Red Rock wall panels. These very realistic simulate rock panels can be fitted to most outdoor climbing wall designs. Textured plywood versions add about $30 per square foot of climbing surface and fully-contoured panels add about $50.00 per square foot.

**Ancillary Gear**

Note that all Walls and Towers also require additional safety belay gear. The amount of gear depends on the size of the wall and programming needs. A suggested list of gear for a basic wall would be:

1. Rescue-8 descender @ $29,
2. (2) belay plates @ $16/ea,
3. (10) steel locking carabiner @ $15/ea,
4. (10) helmets @ $70/ea,
5. (10) adjustable harnesses @ $41/ea,
6. (1) adjustable chest harness @ $27,
7. (3) belay/rappel rope @ $81/ea,
8. (6) static anchor slings @ $10/ea,
9. (1) rescue scissors @ $10,
10. (1) zorber lobster claw @ $73 for a total of $1,734

**Additional Costs**

**Travel.** This can include driving at about .40/mile or airfare plus shipping, depending on the location. Sometimes we can schedule your job along with others in your area and save expense. Call for an estimate.

**Meals/Lodging.** Outside of the Baltimore-Washington area, builder-days are generally charged at $100 for meals and lodging. A basic wall takes about 6 man-days and a Scissor Tower can take as many as 50 man-days, depending on options.

**Training.** Generally, at least one day of training is required for all climbing towers. More is advised if staff has no previous training/experience. One day of training runs about $850 plus travel and expenses.
INNER QUEST builds several basic indoor climbing walls and a variety of more complex variations, up to and including very hi-tech simulated rock systems. Many times walls can be built on existing surfaces particularly if the surface is masonry. When the existing surface is not appropriate, a new wall surface can many times be attached to the existing one. Attached surfaces can be simple 3/4” plywood in various grades or very high-tech pre-engineered, textured panels in a variety of designs. Configurations can range from plain, flat surfaces to low-angle and overhanging, and can include a variety of surface characteristics as desired to simulate real outdoor climbing.

Wall sizes and shapes can vary dramatically. Some walls are low and wide to allow for bouldering practice close to the ground. These walls generally do not require safety systems or extensive supervision. Taller walls do require safety belay systems and training for anyone who is expected to become qualified to use them.

On all INNER QUEST climbing walls, we install a grid pattern of threaded female anchors throughout the surface to allow the holds to be attached and moved as desired. Holds are modular, can be real rock or molded epoxy and bolt to the climbing wall. All non-bouldering walls include overhead belay systems and ground belay anchors. When necessary and appropriate, all structures and anchors are designed or approved by a certified engineer.

Where the existing wall structures are not appropriate or not in the desired location, a new structure can be installed in a free-standing configuration. This option allows the maximum flexibility in wall design, although the cost is generally much greater. When possible, planning your wall structure into the building construction or renovation from the start is the most flexible and cost effective.

All INNER QUEST indoor Climbing Walls are completely custom designed. Please call for a proposal and price quote.

Some price guidelines are as follows:
- Grided wall on existing masonry- $7.50/sq-ft plus belay anchor systems
- Plain plywood panels on framing- $17.00/sq-ft plus belay anchor systems
- Red Rock (tm) textured plywood on framing- $40.00/sq-ft plus belay anchor systems
- Red Rock (tm) molded wall systems- $60.00/sq-ft plus belay anchor systems
- Basic vertical belay anchor system- $350.00/ea
- Prices include molded holds
- All engineering, travel and expenses are additional.

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