

How and Why to Perform Backouts

Example A – you would ‘backout’ a skylight from a ceiling (area) so as to deduct the square footage of the skylight from the total square footage of the ceiling (area) as well as add more linear footage for the perimeter of the skylight itself. In essence you can have the perimeter of the skylight add to the total perimeter of the condition’s quantity.

Backing out with BACKOUT MODE

If you wish to backout an area, for example, backing out a skylight from a ceiling, you need to follow these instructions:

1. Grab your select Arrow and Select the Takeoff that contains the area you wish to back out. You will be able to tell the Takeoff is selected because you will see a 4-way cursor when you hover your mouse over the Takeoff.
2. Click the Backout Mode button. (If it is not highlighted and able to be clicked you have not done Step 1 and selected a valid area that can be backed out)
3. You should now have a crosshair and you take off the area that you wish to backout, just like you takeoff an area.
4. Once this is done your backout is complete. If you quantities did not change, your Condition Properties need to be checked. Please make sure that your results are ‘including backouts’ for Surface Area or ‘plus backouts’ for Linear Footage (perimeter). If this is setup correctly, you will have the backout affect your quantities.
5. Please note that you can now takeoff within the ‘backed out’ area.

Example B - you would ‘backout’ a window from a wall (linear) so as to have the ability to deduct the square footage of the window from the total square footage of the wall (linear).

Backing out with ATTACHMENTS

If you wish to back out an opening, for example, backing out a door frame or window from a wall, you need to follow these instructions:

1. Create a new Condition with a Style of Attachment. Give it appropriate Height and Width as needed, and select the appropriate shape from the Shape pulldown menu (example LH Door, Window, Opening, RH Door, etc.)
2. Select the Attachment condition and click on the linear takeoff where your opening is located.
3. The Shape you selected should now be visible on the linear takeoff line you clicked on. If you wish to change the way a door shape is lined up, select the shape, click your mouse button down and drag either in or out from the line to swing the door IN or OUT.
4. Attachment conditions, by default, are setup to Backout Quantities From Parent, which means the surface area of the Attachment will be backed away from the surface area of the linear condition that you are backing out. (if you do not see this happening, make sure your attachment has ‘Backout Quantities from Parent’ selected in the Advanced Tab of that condition’s properties.