

DEXA SCANNER

PRICING & COST GUIDE

What It Really Costs to Buy a Bone Densitometer in 2026

Medical Imaging Equipment Buyer's Guide | AmberUSA.com

Refurbished DEXA scanner pricing varies based on model, software version, and the depth of clinical features built into the system. Entry-level units start around \$16,000, mid-tier scanners commonly fall between \$22,000 and \$28,000, and feature-rich premium platforms with advanced body composition and fracture assessment capabilities reach up to \$45,000.

This guide walks through the financial side of acquiring a refurbished DEXA bone densitometer, whether you are launching a bone health program, upgrading an aging unit, or expanding an orthopedic or endocrinology service line. We will cover the pricing tiers, the features and software versions that drive cost, the additional expenses to plan for, and how to match the right system to your patient population.

What's Covered in This Guide

- Pricing tiers and what each one delivers clinically
- Factors that drive DEXA pricing — supply, operating system, software, features
- Ongoing costs beyond the scanner itself
- How to match a tier to your practice

Refurbished DEXA represents one of the most cost-effective ways to add bone densitometry to your practice without sacrificing diagnostic quality. The right approach is to match the system tier to your actual clinical workload — a small primary care practice running occasional osteoporosis screenings has different needs than a dedicated bone health center doing daily body composition studies.

NEED A CUSTOM QUOTE?

Every practice has a unique mix of patient volume, study complexity, and clinical priorities. Reach out to our sales team for personalized pricing on the DEXA configuration that fits your environment — we can pull options across current refurbished inventory, plus financing structures tailored to your budget.

1. DEXA Pricing Tiers Explained

Refurbished DEXA scanners split cleanly into three tiers based on the model generation, software revision level, operating system, and the clinical features the system supports. Each tier represents a different balance of price and capability — and matching your practice to the right tier is the single biggest factor in getting good value from a DEXA purchase.

ENTRY-LEVEL TIER

ENTRY-LEVEL \$16K – \$21K

The most budget-conscious option, well-suited for primary care offices, small orthopedic practices, and clinics adding osteoporosis screening to an existing service line. These earlier-generation scanners run Windows 7 and handle standard bone mineral density (BMD) testing of the spine, hip, and forearm with the diagnostic accuracy that DEXA is known for. Ideal when budget is tight but reliable BMD measurement is the priority.

- ▶ **Best fit:** Primary care offices, small clinics, basic osteoporosis screening

Representative Models:

- ▶ Early GE Prodigy Series
- ▶ GE DPX Series
- ▶ Hologic Discovery Series

INTERMEDIATE TIER

INTERMEDIATE

\$22K – \$28K

The most popular tier among Amber's DEXA customers and the strongest price-to-capability ratio in the market. These mid-generation scanners — also typically running Windows 7 — offer faster scan times, improved software interfaces, and better image quality than the entry-level options. Endocrinology practices, mid-volume orthopedic groups, and women's health centers are the typical buyers.

- ▶ **Best fit:** Endocrinology, mid-volume orthopedic, women's health centers

Representative Models:

- ▶ Later GE Prodigy Series
- ▶ Later Hologic Discovery Series
- ▶ Early Hologic Horizon Series

PREMIUM TIER

PREMIUM
\$30K – \$45K

Premium refurbished DEXA platforms run on either Windows 7 or Windows 10 and support the most advanced clinical applications available in bone densitometry. Beyond standard BMD testing, these systems handle total body composition, visceral adipose tissue (VAT) measurement, atypical femur fracture (AFF) assessment, and pediatric and athletic performance applications. Dedicated bone health centers, sports medicine clinics, and research facilities are the typical buyers.

- ▶ **Best fit:** Bone health centers, sports medicine, research, dedicated DEXA practices

Representative Models:

- ▶ Latest GE Prodigy Series
- ▶ GE Lunar iDXA
- ▶ Hologic Horizon A and W

2. Factors That Drive DEXA Pricing

Even within a single tier, prices can vary by several thousand dollars depending on a handful of specific factors. Understanding what moves the price helps you focus your search and avoid paying for capability you will not use.

Current Refurbished Supply

Like any secondary market, refurbished DEXA pricing fluctuates with available inventory. When a particular model is plentiful, pricing softens; when supply tightens — usually because a manufacturer has reached end-of-life on a popular platform — pricing firms up. Working with a dealer that maintains active inventory across multiple manufacturers gives you visibility into what is actually available and at what price.

Operating System

DEXA systems running Windows 7 are generally less expensive than those running Windows 10. Windows 7 systems remain fully clinical-grade for standard BMD testing, and many practices operate them indefinitely as standalone units isolated from the broader network. Windows 10 systems carry a price premium but offer easier integration with modern hospital networks, longer ongoing manufacturer support, and a smoother path for future software upgrades.

Software Revision Level

Newer software releases unlock additional clinical features, improved patient-management tools, and better reporting capabilities. A late-revision software package on the same hardware platform can add meaningfully to the price — and is generally worth the premium for any practice that will use the advanced features. Standard BMD-only practices can often stay with mid-revision software and reinvest the savings elsewhere.

Clinical Features

The biggest pricing jumps come from the advanced clinical features built into premium-tier units. Body composition analysis, visceral fat measurement, atypical fracture assessment, vertebral fracture assessment (VFA), and pediatric reference databases all carry licensing costs that flow through to system pricing. A practice running purely standard BMD studies does not need any of these — but a sports medicine or weight management practice may find them essential.

3. Costs Beyond the DEXA Scanner Itself

The system price is just the starting point. To get a DEXA program fully operational, several additional purchases and services need to be factored into your total budget.

Installation & Applications Training

Refurbished DEXA installation is straightforward compared to larger imaging modalities — there is no shielding to build, no chiller to install, and most scanners can be sited in a standard exam room with minimal preparation. Applications training for the technologist team typically runs \$1,000 to \$3,000 per day; most practices need one to two days of on-site training to bring staff up to speed on a new platform.

Operator Safety Accessories

DEXA delivers extremely low radiation doses — well below standard X-ray — but it is still a radiation-producing system and standard safety accessories apply. Typical accessory pricing:

Item / Service	Typical Cost Range
Lead aprons	\$120 – \$200 each
Thyroid shields	\$45 – \$90 each
Radiation safety eyewear	\$55 – \$250 per pair
Dosimetry badge service (annual)	\$100 – \$300 per badge

Medical Physicist Inspection

State radiation regulations require a qualified medical physicist to inspect any new radiation-producing system before patient use. DEXA inspections are typically less involved than CT or mammography surveys but are still required. Physicists are independent contractors, so pricing varies regionally — getting at least two quotes is good practice.

Ongoing Service & Maintenance

DEXA service contracts are meaningfully less expensive than larger imaging modalities, reflecting the lower complexity and gentler duty cycle of these systems. Annual full-coverage service contracts typically run between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year and cover annual calibration, software updates, and replacement parts coverage.

For budget-conscious practices, time-and-materials service is also a viable option — you pay only when something needs attention. The trade-off is less predictability on annual maintenance costs and slower response times in the event of a failure. Annual calibration is essential regardless of service approach to maintain BMD measurement accuracy over the life of the system.

SERVICE PLANS AREN'T ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL

We can help you compare full-coverage OEM contracts against independent service organization (ISO) options. Independent providers often deliver comparable uptime guarantees at a 25 to 40 percent lower annual cost — particularly valuable on refurbished or older DEXA platforms where OEM contracts can become disproportionately expensive.

4. Financing & Payment Options

Refurbished DEXA is one of the easier imaging purchases to finance because the dollar amounts involved are modest compared to MRI or CT. Most practices have several paths available to spread the cost over time.

Equipment Financing

Standard equipment financing typically runs 3 to 7 years at competitive interest rates depending on credit profile and term length. Monthly payments on a refurbished DEXA can land between \$500 and \$1,200 depending on tier, term, and structure — well within reach for most clinical practices.

Leasing

Operating leases shift the cost from a capital expense to an operating expense, which can change how the purchase is reviewed and approved internally. Lease terms are typically 3 to 5 years, with end-of-term options to purchase, return, or upgrade the equipment.

Buying Refurbished vs. New

A new DEXA scanner can cost \$50,000 to \$150,000 or more depending on configuration. Buying refurbished from a reputable dealer typically saves 40 to 60 percent versus new pricing — without compromising on diagnostic quality, performance, or familiar platforms. For most practices, the math strongly favors refurbished, with the savings funding accessories, training, multi-year service coverage, or another modality entirely.

5. Matching the Tier to Your Practice

The most common mistake we see practices make is buying a tier that does not match their actual case mix — either over-investing in a premium platform with features they will never use, or under-investing in an entry-level system that limits their ability to expand into body composition or other advanced applications. A few quick guideposts.

Choose Entry-Level If...

- Your practice does standard osteoporosis screening on a low to moderate volume
- You are a primary care office or smaller specialty clinic
- Budget constraints are the dominant decision factor
- You are adding DEXA as a supplementary service, not a core service line

Choose Intermediate If...

- Your patient volume is moderate to higher and warrants faster scan times
- You serve an endocrinology, orthopedic, or women's health population
- You want better software and a more modern user interface
- The price-to-capability ratio is your priority

Choose Premium If...

- You operate a dedicated bone health center or sports medicine clinic
- Body composition, visceral fat, or atypical fracture assessment is part of your offering
- You serve pediatric, athletic, or research populations
- Long-term network integration and OEM support matter for your environment

6. Frequently Asked Questions

How long does a DEXA scanner typically last?

A well-maintained DEXA scanner has a service life of 10 to 15 years. Annual calibration, periodic software updates, and a reliable service relationship are the three keys to maximizing useful life. Refurbished units purchased through a reputable dealer have typically been through a full inspection and component refresh before resale, which resets the effective service life clock.

Can a DEXA scanner do more than bone density?

Premium-tier DEXA platforms support a broader range of clinical applications beyond standard BMD testing — total body composition, visceral adipose tissue measurement, vertebral fracture assessment, pediatric studies, and athletic performance evaluations. Entry-level and intermediate-tier units are generally limited to standard BMD applications, which is sufficient for most osteoporosis screening practices.

What about Quantitative Ultrasound (QUS) as an alternative?

QUS systems are sometimes presented as a lower-cost alternative to DXA — typically running \$10,000 to \$30,000 for portable units, \$40,000 to \$70,000 for full-size systems. QUS uses ultrasound rather than X-ray, which eliminates radiation exposure, but the accuracy and clinical utility are substantially lower than DXA. QUS is generally limited to preliminary screening and fracture risk prediction; DXA remains the clinical gold standard for diagnostic osteoporosis assessment.

What ongoing maintenance does a DEXA need?

Annual calibration with a manufacturer-supplied quality control phantom is the most important ongoing requirement and ensures BMD measurements remain accurate over time. Periodic software updates keep the system current with diagnostic standards and reporting requirements. Cleaning the scanner table and gantry between patients is standard infection-control practice. A reliable service relationship — whether OEM, ISO, or in-house biomedical support — rounds out the maintenance picture.

Final Thoughts

A refurbished DEXA purchase is one of the more transparent and accessible decisions in medical imaging. The price points are reasonable, the technology is well-understood, the savings versus new are significant, and the clinical utility is established. The right approach is to match your tier — entry-level, intermediate, or premium — to the patient population and case mix your practice actually serves, then layer on the right financing and service approach for your budget.

With prices ranging from \$16,000 for a solid entry-level system up to \$45,000 for a fully featured premium platform, refurbished DEXA delivers strong diagnostic value at a fraction of new pricing. Investing in bone densitometry is an essential step for practices offering osteoporosis screening, fracture risk assessment, or body composition analysis — and refurbished is generally the smartest path in.

READY TO TALK PRICING?

Amber Diagnostics has been buying, selling, and servicing refurbished DEXA bone densitometers for over 30 years. Our team can pull current inventory, build a custom quote, and walk you through the total cost of ownership for any configuration you are considering. Contact us today at AmberUSA.com or call our Orlando headquarters to start the conversation.

Quick Reference: DEXA Cost Summary

Item / Service	Typical Cost Range
Entry-Level DEXA (Windows 7, basic BMD)	\$16,000 – \$21,000
Intermediate DEXA (Windows 7, mid-revision software)	\$22,000 – \$28,000
Premium DEXA (advanced features, body composition)	\$30,000 – \$45,000
Operator Safety Kit (apron, shield, eyewear)	\$220 – \$540
Applications Training (per day)	\$1,000 – \$3,000
Annual Service Contract	\$5,000 – \$10,000
Monthly Financing (typical 5-year term)	\$500 – \$1,200

All figures are approximate market ranges as of 2026 and may vary based on manufacturer, configuration, software revision, model year, and regional factors. Refurbished pricing reflects current secondary market conditions and is subject to inventory availability.