

How much do I need?

The DIY material cheat-sheet — quick formulas for the projects people Google most. Measure in feet, round up, and you're set.

Inches → feet

Divide any inch measurement by 12 before you multiply.

1 yard = 27 cu ft

Volume jobs (mulch, concrete, gravel) divide by 27.

Always round up

Add ~10% — settling, cuts, and spillage add up.

Measure twice

One bad number throws off the whole order.

Mulch

Cubic yards = $L \times W \times (\text{depth}'' \div 12) \div 27$

Bags = cubic feet $\div$ bag size (2 or 3 cu ft)

Rule of thumb: 2–3" deep, and keep it off the trunk.

Paint

Wall area = $2 \times (L + W) \times \text{height}$

Gallons = (wall area – openings) $\times$ coats $\div$ 350

Rule of thumb: $\approx$ 350 sq ft per gallon, per coat. –21 sq ft/door, –15/window.

Tile

Tile area (sq ft) = (tile W" $\times$ tile H") $\div$ 144

Tiles = floor area $\times$ (1 + waste) $\div$ tile area

Rule of thumb: Add 10% waste — 15–20% for diagonal or herringbone.

Concrete

Cubic yards = $L \times W \times (\text{thick}'' \div 12) \div 27$

Bags = cu ft $\div$ 0.6 (80 lb) $\div$ 0.45 (60 lb)

Rule of thumb: Past $\sim$ 1/2 yard, order ready-mix instead of bags.

Gravel & Stone

Cubic yards = $L \times W \times (\text{depth}'' \div 12) \div 27$

Tons = cubic yards $\times$ ~1.4 (gravel)

Rule of thumb: 2–3" for paths, 4"+ for driveways.

Sod

Pallets = lawn area $\div$ 450 (round up)

Rolls = lawn area $\div$ 10

Rule of thumb: Add 5–10% for cuts and odd corners.

Drywall

Sheets = total area $\times$ (1 + waste) $\div$ sheet size

4 $\times$ 8 = 32 sq ft · 4 $\times$ 12 = 48 · **Screws** $\approx$ sheets $\times$ 40

Rule of thumb: Stagger the seams so joints don't line up.

Skip the math

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