

How to Measure Square Footage

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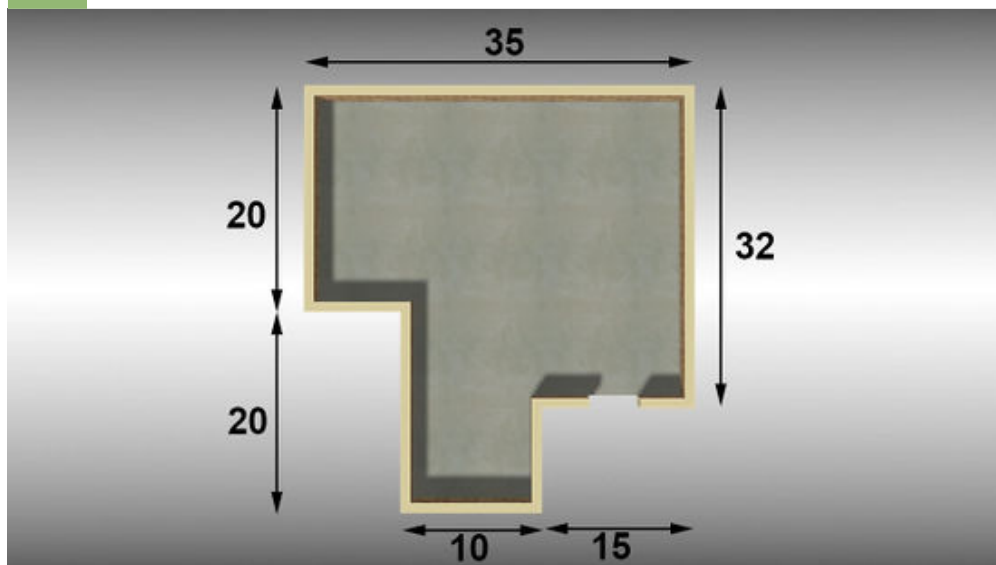
Co-authored by Mark Spelman 🌱 and 39 contributors

Last Updated: November 18, 2020

Knowing how to measure square footage can be very useful for real estate rental and sale purposes, and it can also help you ace your next geometry test. To measure the square footage of a space, separate the space into manageable parts, find the square footage of all those different parts (usually by multiplying length times width), and add the square footage of all separate parts together to find the square footage of the overall space.

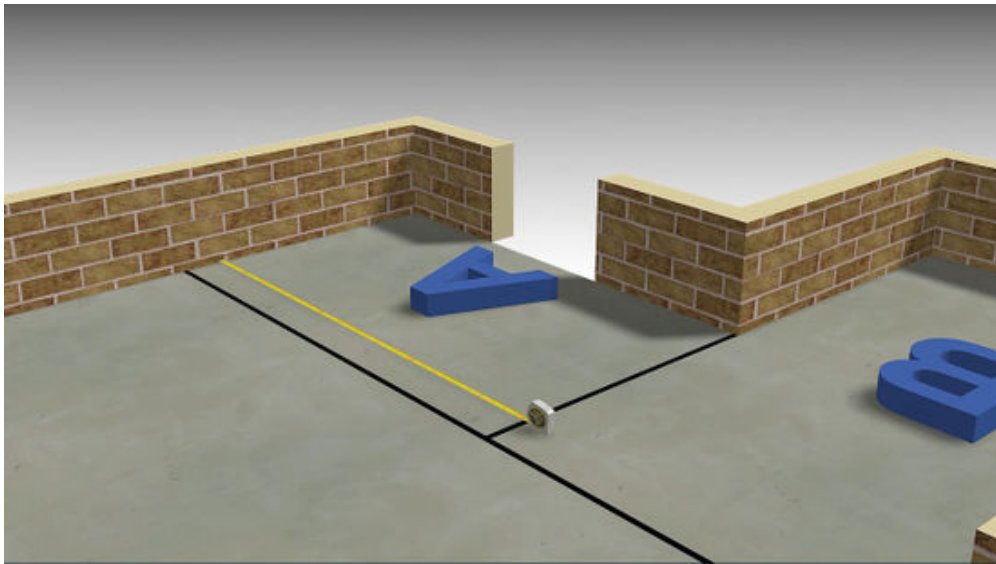
Method 1

Method 1 of 2: Find the Square Footage of a Space

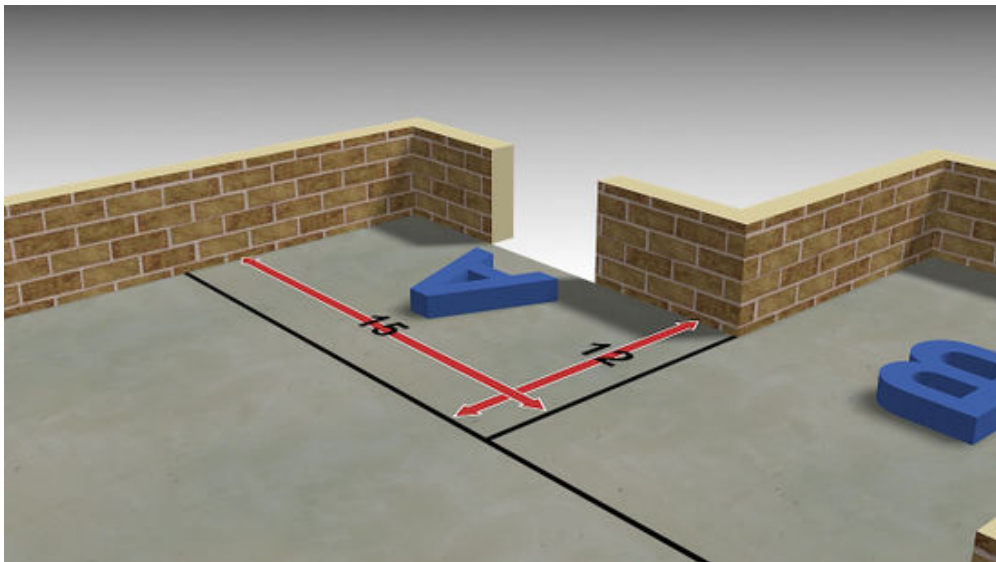


1 Break down the area into manageable parts. If you're having trouble finding the square footage, then it's probably because you're not working with a neat area with just one length and one width. The space might have squares jutting off in different places and could be shaped erratically. All you have to do is split up the space into even squares or rectangles. To find the square footage, or the area, of the entire space, you'll need to find the square footage of the individual spaces and then add them all together.^[1]

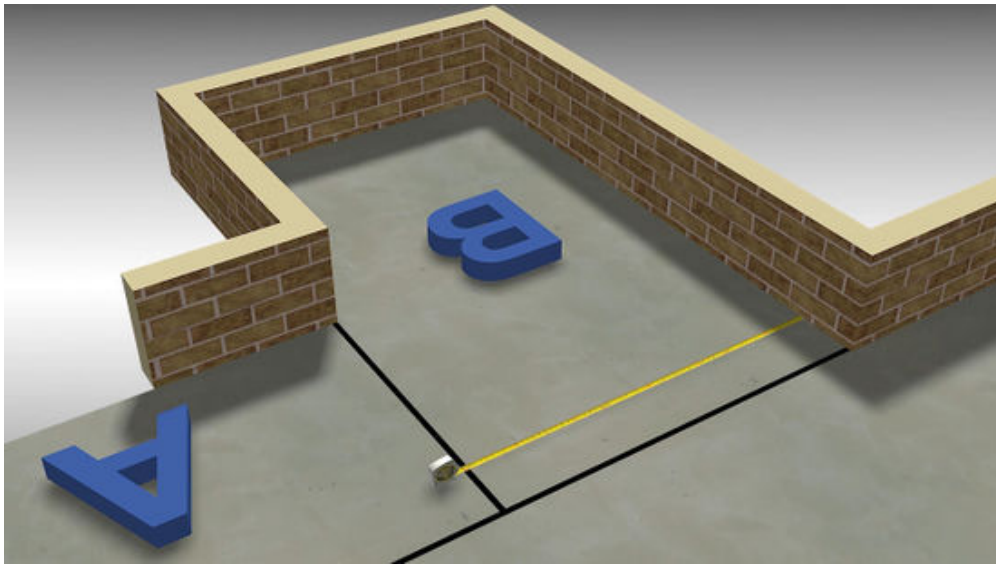
- Draw faint lines separating the different sections.
- Label them A, B, and C for your convenience.



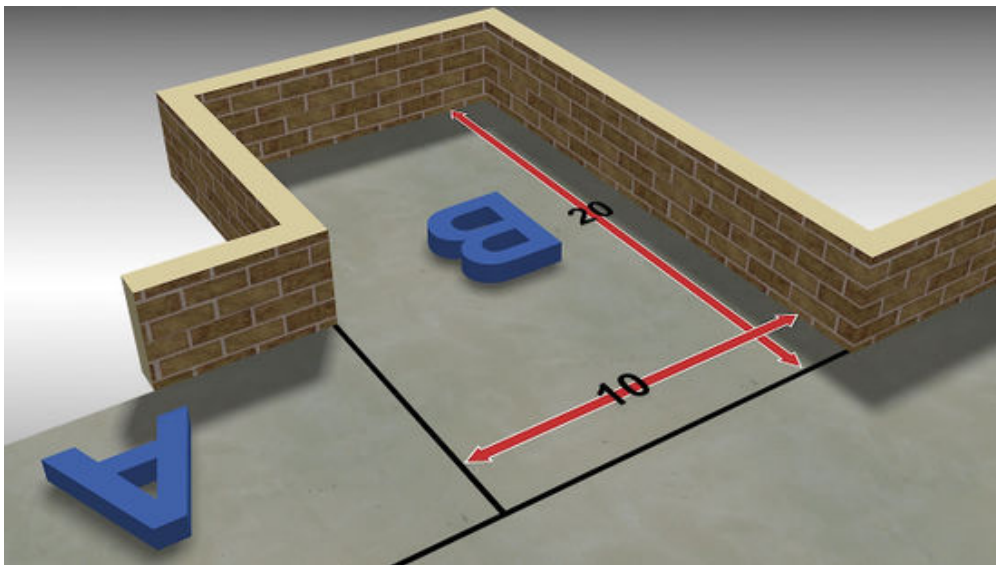
- 2 Measure the length and width of the first space.** Using a ruler or measuring tape, find the length and width of the first space you've created, Space A.
- The length of the space is 12 feet (3.7 m), and the width is 15 feet (4.6 m).



- 3 Multiply the length of the first space by the width of the first space.** To find the square footage -- or the area -- of the space, just multiply the length times the width, just as you would do with any rectangle.
- Ex: 12 feet (3.7 m). x 15 feet (4.6 m). = 180 square feet

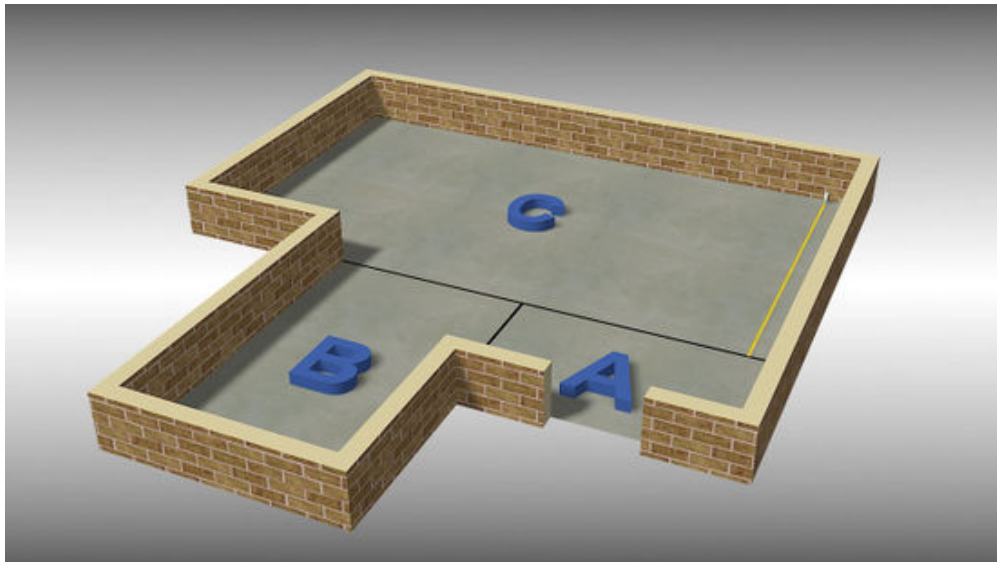


- 4 Measure the length and width of the second space.** Let's say that the length of Space B is 20 feet (6.1 m) and the width of Space B is 10 feet (3.0 m).

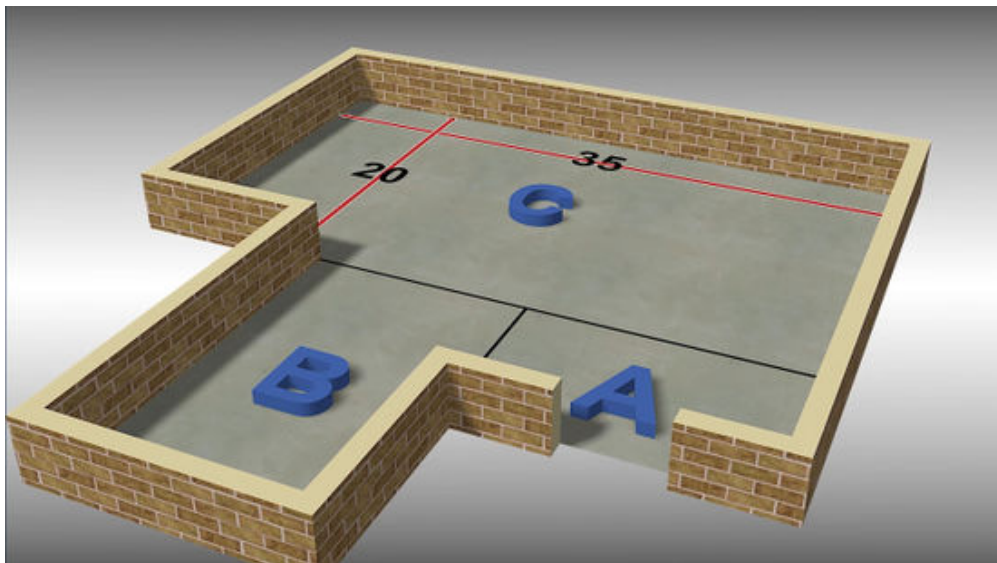


- 5 Multiply the length of the second space times the width of the second space.** This will lead you to find the square footage of the second space.^[2] Here's how you find the square footage of Space B:

- Ex: 20 feet (6.1 m). x 10 feet (3.0 m). = 200 square feet.

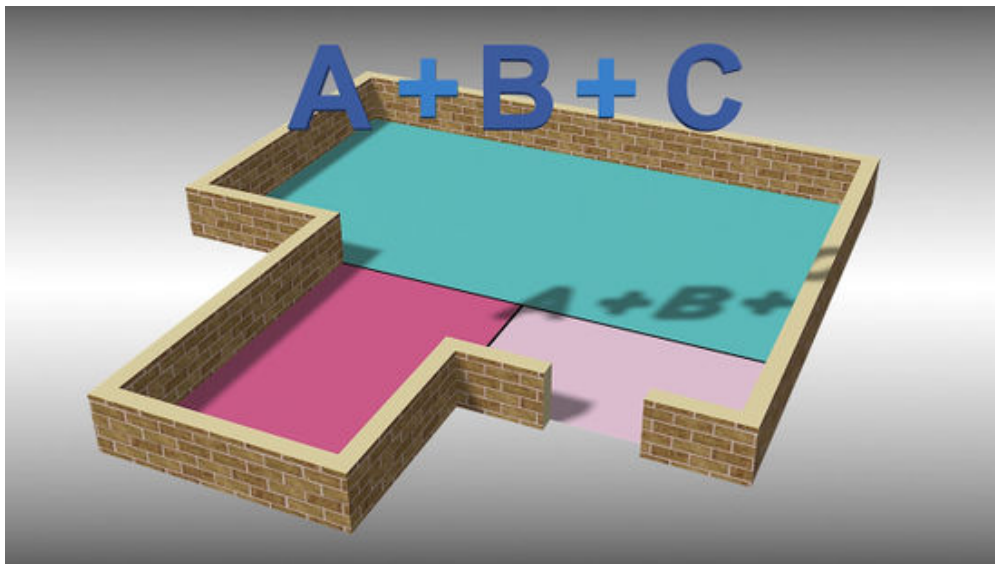


6 Measure the length and width of the third space. Let's say that the length of Space C is 20 feet (6.1 m) and the width of Space C is 35 feet (10.7 m).



7 Multiply the length of the third space times the width of the third space. This will lead you to find the square footage of the third space. Here's how you find the square footage of Space C:

- Ex: 20 feet (6.1 m). x 35 feet (10.7 m). = 700 square feet

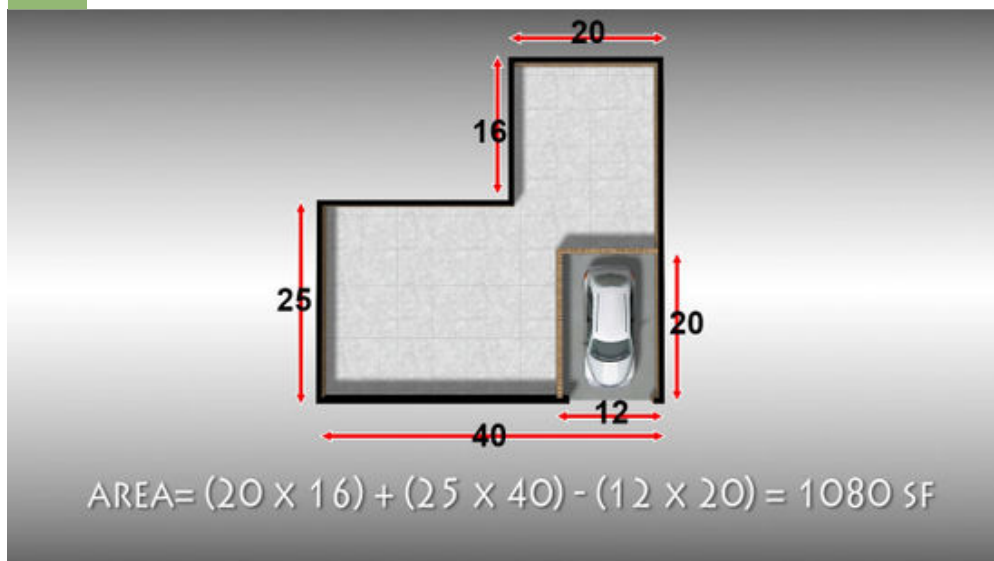


8 Add the square footages of the three spaces. Once you find the sum of the square footages of the three spaces, you'll know the square footage of the entire space. Here's how you do it:

- Square footage of Space A + square footage of Space B + square footage of Space C = square footage of the entire space
- $180 + 200 + 700 = 1080$ square feet

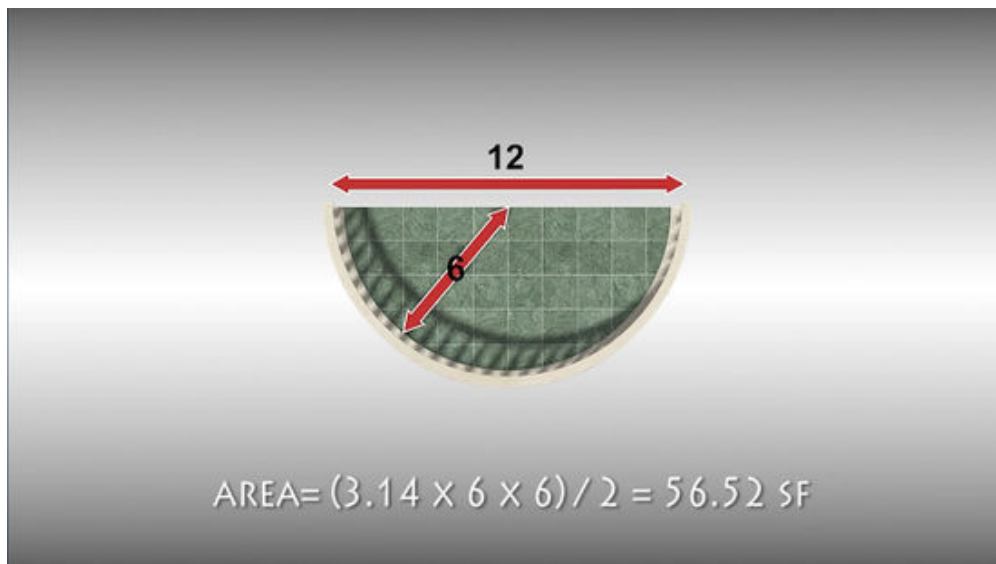
**Method
2**

**Method 2 of 2:
Learn a Few Tricks for Finding Square Footage**



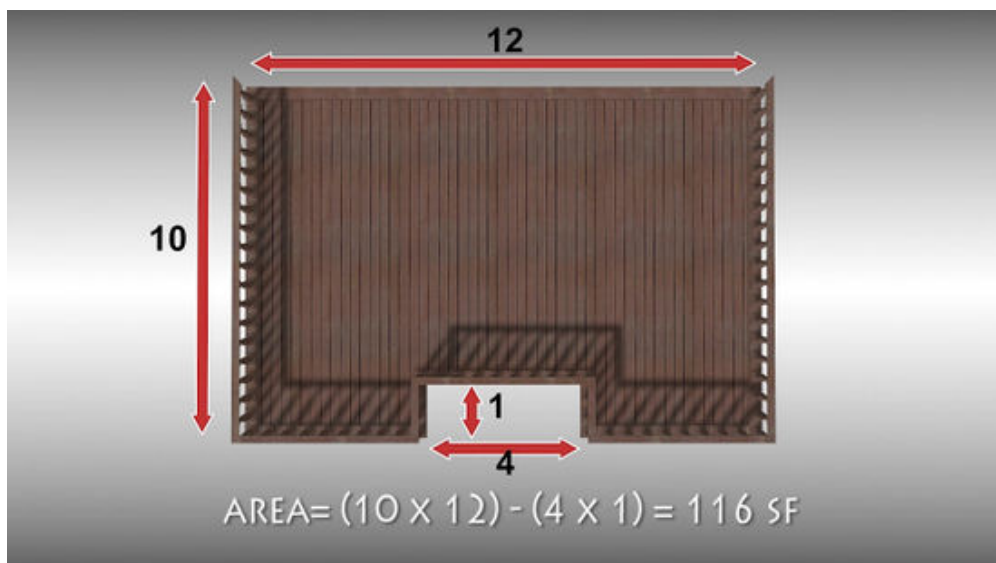
1 Find the approximation of square footage. If you're looking for an approximation of square footage, you can also try measuring the outside of your home and then subtracting any areas that won't be factored in to the square footage, such as the porch stairs or garage.

- Ceiling and floor tiles are often one square foot in size. You can simply count these to get a close approximation of the total square footage.



2 Find the square footage of a space that's shaped like a half-circle. If there's a part of your house that's shaped like a half of a circle, you can find the square footage of the circle by finding the area of the space as if it were a full circle and then dividing it by half. To do this, simply measure the long line that cuts the "circle" in half to get the diameter.[3]

- Next, divide that number by 2 to get the radius (r) and plug the result into the equation $A = \pi r^2$.
- Finally, divide by 2 to get the area, or square footage, of the half circle.



3 Find the square footage of a space that's *almost* regularly shaped. If you're measuring a space that is almost fully a square or a rectangle, with only a small square or rectangular part missing, then measure the square footage of the entire space as if the missing part was filled in. Then, find the square footage of the missing part and subtract it from the overall square footage to find the square footage of the space. This will save you time.



Expert Q&A

Question

What is the square footage of a house 30 by 24 ft?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

The square footage of a house 30 by 24 foot is 720 square feet.

Helpful 29 Not Helpful 3

Question

After I get the square footage, how do I figure how many boxes of flooring it would be?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

Each flooring box will list the box's total square feet. You can add up the boxes until you get the right number.

Helpful 23 Not Helpful 10

Question

When buying a house is the square footage advertised based on outside measurements or inside measurements?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

The square footage advertised on houses for sale is based on the measurements inside the building.

Helpful 18 Not Helpful 8

Question

What is the length and width of a 6 square feet poster?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

The length and width of a 6 square foot poster is typically 2 feet x 3 feet.

Helpful 16 Not Helpful 6

Question

How do I find the surface area of a counter top that has a sink installed?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

You measure it the same way: multiply length by width.

Helpful 12 Not Helpful 7

Question

How do I measure for a carpet?



Mark Spelman
Construction Professional
Expert Answer

Find the square footage, and then convert it to yards.

Helpful 14 Not Helpful 12

Question

How do I measure the square footage of a hole dug in the ground that needs to be filled?



Community Answer

If you want to know how much dirt is needed to fill a hole, you are looking for a measurement of volume (cubic feet or cubic meters), not area (square foot or square meter). To calculate volume, multiply the area of the hole (length X width) by the depth of the hole. For example, if I have a square hole that is 6m long by 4m wide and is 2m deep, I will need 48 cubic meters of dirt to fill the hole ($6 \times 4 \times 2 = 48$). For a round hole, the area is found by squaring the radius of the circle and multiplying by pi. Then multiply by the depth to find the volume.

Helpful 20 Not Helpful 6

Question

What's the square footage of a room that is 18/18?



Community Answer

If the room is perfectly square, the square footage is the length squared.
 $18^2 = 324$ sq. ft.

Helpful 32 Not Helpful 18

Question

How can I figure out the footage of my oven?



Community Answer

Take out an oven rack and use a tape measure to measure the length and width of the rack. Multiply the length by the width. This is the approximate square footage of your oven.

Helpful 14 Not Helpful 5

Question

How do I convert inches to feet?



Community Answer

There are 12 inches in a foot, so divide the number of feet you have by 12 to know how many inches it is.

Helpful 17 Not Helpful 20

[See more answers](#)

Video

<https://www.wikihow.com/video/d/de/Measure+Square+Footage+Step+0.360p.mp4>

References

1. ↑ <https://www.zillow.com/blog/how-to-measure-your-homes-square-footage-92175/>
2. ↑ <https://sciencing.com/calculate-square-feet-rectangle-7817513.html>
3. ↑ <https://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/circle-area.html>

About This Article



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This article was co-authored by **Mark Spelman**. Mark Spelman is a General Contractor based in Austin, Texas. With over 30 years of construction experience, Mark specializes in constructing interiors, project management, and project estimation. He has been a construction professional since 1987. This article has been viewed 1,701,084 times.

★★★★☆
49 votes - 85%

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