

How Much Paint Do I Need Formula:

Wall area - 20 square feet per door - 15 square feet per window. All of this multiplied by the number of coats and divided by 350 square feet per gallon.

How Much Paint Do I Need Definition

One of the least expensive ways to [update your home is by painting](#). It is probably the most cost effective method as well, but you really need to know how much paint you actually need. If you buy too much paint, you will have wasted some money. If you do not buy enough paint, you will have to return to the store to get more. Take a quick moment to calculate your paint needs now!

The basic formula for deciding how much paint you need is simple for the wall area. You need to figure out the dimensions of your room. Multiply the length and the width of your room. Once you have that information, subtract 20 square feet for each door in the room and 15 square feet per window. A gallon of paint typically covers about 350 square feet. Take the wall area and divide it by 350 to find the amount of paint that you will need to paint one coat. No need to do these calculations on a piece of paper or a standard calculator. Simply enter the below inputs into the calculator for a quick easy calculation!

How to Use the Calculator

The first inputs of the above paint calculator, you will be asked for the height and length of your walls. You put in that information along with the number of doors and windows that are in the room. Remember that this calculator is based upon the standard measurements. Oddly shaped windows may skew the results, so take that into consideration. You will then have to put in the number of coats that you expect to paint. In most cases, two coats of paint are usually plenty.

1. Height of the Walls

The height of the walls is measured in feet. The calculator also assumes that you have perfectly rectangular or square rooms. If you have slanted ceilings, you may need less paint than the calculator figures. To get this measurement, use a tape measure to measure the distance from the ceiling to the floor. Most walls are 8 or 10 feet high.

2. Length of the Walls

The length of the walls will vary, and they are also measured in feet. If you have a rectangular room, you will only need to measure the one side and double it. A square room will only require you to measure one wall and multiply that number by four. The length of walls is not typically a standard measurement. You will likely get the best measurement if you have someone else help you to hold the measuring tape.

3. The Number of Doors

For this part of the calculation, you will need to simply type in the number of doors that you have. French doors will count as two doors. Be sure to include any closet doors in the calculation as well.

4. The Number of Windows

Simply count all of the windows in the room that you are going to paint. Remember that the calculator is based upon a standard fifteen square foot window. Add that number to the calculator.

5. Number of Coats of Paint

The typical number of coats is two. If you are going over a darker color with a lighter color, you may require some additional coats. Putting a darker color over a lighter color may only require one coat. It is best to plan on two coats, but add or subtract at least one coat if you are drastically changing the color scheme.

Calculate

Once all of the information is in the online calculator, click on the calculate button. Your results will be given to you and you can head to the store to get your paint. Also, check out the [Circular Room Paint Calculator!](#)

- Estimate your room size and paint needs before you go to the store. Running out of a custom color halfway through the job could mean disaster. For the sake of the following exercise, assume that you have a 10x15-foot room with an 8-foot ceiling. The room has two doors and two windows.

FOR WALLS

- Measure the total distance (perimeter) around the room: $(10 \text{ ft.} + 15 \text{ ft.}) \times 2 = 50 \text{ ft.}$
- Multiply the perimeter by the ceiling height to get the total wall area: $50 \text{ ft.} \times 8 \text{ ft.} = 400 \text{ sq. ft.}$
- Doors are usually 21 square feet (there are two in this exercise): $21 \text{ sq. ft.} \times 2 = 42 \text{ sq. ft.}$
- Windows average 15 square feet (there are two in this exercise): $15 \text{ sq. ft.} \times 2 = 30 \text{ sq. ft.}$
- Take the total wall area and subtract the area for the doors and windows to get the wall surface to be painted: $400 \text{ sq. ft. (wall area)} - 42 \text{ sq. ft. (doors)} - 30 \text{ sq. ft. (windows)} = 328 \text{ sq. ft.}$
- As a rule of thumb, one gallon of quality paint will usually cover 400 square feet. One quart will cover 100 square feet. Because you need to cover 328 square feet in this example, one gallon will be adequate to give one coat of paint to the walls. (Coverage will be affected by the porosity and texture of the surface. In addition, bright colors may require a minimum of two coats.)

FOR CEILINGS

- Using the rule of thumb for coverage above, you can calculate the quantity of paint needed for the ceiling by multiplying the width by the length: $10 \text{ ft.} \times 15 \text{ ft.} = 150 \text{ sq. ft.}$ This ceiling will require approximately two quarts of paint. (A flat finish is recommended to minimize surface imperfections.)
- For Doors, Windows, and Trim
- The area for the doors and windows has been calculated above. (The windowpane area that does not get painted should allow for enough paint for any trim around doors and windows.) Determine the baseboard trim by taking

the perimeter of the room, less 3 feet per door (3 ft. x 2 = 6 ft.), and multiplying this by the average trim width of your baseboard, which in this example is 6 inches (or 0.5 feet). 50 ft. (perimeter) – 6 ft. = 44 ft. 44 ft. x 0.5 ft. = 22 sq. ft.

- Add the area for doors, windows, and baseboard trim. 42 sq. ft. (doors) +30 sq. ft. (windows) +22 sq. ft. (baseboard trim) 94 sq. ft.
- One quart will be sufficient to cover the doors, windows, and trim in this example.

Tip: Before you paint, ventilate. Keep a window or outside door open in the room you are painting to avoid breathing noxious fumes.

Paint sheens come in different categories and each have their own characteristics. The sheen scale can include terms like *flat*, *eggshell* and *gloss*, which reference the aesthetics and performance of the paint. When looking for a new paint for your project, give sheen some careful consideration.

Shine

"Flat" usually means *no shine*, while "gloss" usually means *the most shine*. Eggshell, satin and semi-gloss fall in between these ends of the sheen spectrum.

In order of left to right, consider:

- Flat → Matte → Eggshell → Satins → Semi-Gloss → Hi-Gloss
- Less reflection of light → More reflection of light
- More-subtle appearance on wall → Higher shine
- Lower scrubbability → Greater scrubbability

Consider your room

Different sheens have become popular for specific rooms due to their performance features and aesthetic qualities. Think about the room you are painting, then find it in the table below. It can help you identify a sheen (or choice of sheens) that usually work well for those projects.

<u>SHEEN:</u>		<u>FLATE</u>	<u>EGGSHELL</u>	<u>SATIN</u>	<u>SEMI-GLOSS</u>	<u>HI-GLOSS</u>
<u>WALLS:</u>						
	<u>FAMILY ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>LIVING ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>DINING ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>BEDROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>KID'S ROOM</u>			*	*	
	<u>HALLWAY</u>		*	*		
	<u>KITCHEN & BATH</u>				*	*
<u>ACCENTS, TRIM & ACCESSORIES</u>						
	<u>DOORS/WINDOWS</u>				*	*
	<u>MOULDING</u>				*	*
	<u>CABINETS</u>				*	*
	<u>FURNITURE</u>			*	*	*
	<u>CEILINGS</u>	*				

Sheen makes a big impact

The sheen you choose for your painting project can have a great impact on the overall look and feel of your result. Light, color and sheen all combine to create your room's overall feeling, so don't skip trying and testing different sheens in the same room. You might be surprised with the sheen you like most!

How To Paint A Room: Save Money On Your Project!

Don't start your next paint project before reading this guide

Written by: The Olympic® Paints and Stains Team

You want a beautifully painted room, but you don't have the money to pay a professional painter. Have you thought about turning that burning desire into a DIY painting project? It's a great idea, but before you slap on that first coat of paint, read this overview of how you should go about completing your project.

Choose your color

Choose the right paint color for the emotion you want in the room. Different hues have different impacts on your mood, so choose shades that create the right atmosphere for you. Use a paint visualizer to see your ideas in real time.

Calculate your amount of paint

Use our Paint Calculator for a proper estimate of how much paint your DIY project will require. It's a simple and quick way of making sure you're properly prepared (and not overbuying). Once you know the amount of paint you need, stop by your local retailer to pick it up.

Organize the room

Remove any furniture and decoration that can be carried (or pushed) from the room. If things are too heavy, or you don't have any room for the larger pieces elsewhere, move them to the center of the room and cover them with plastic or cloth.

Clean your surfaces

Clean the walls of any dirt or dust with an old towel or rag. Pay close attention to the corners and creases. You want to remove any foreign agents from the surface you wish to paint. A clean surface allows for good contact with the fresh paint or primer.

Cover what's left in the room

Lay cloth, plastic or paper sheeting over the ground. This will act as your protective base layer. Cloth and paper absorb paint, which will help you avoid dragging dripped

paint around the room. Plastic is better than nothing, but it won't absorb like cloth, so keep that in the back of your mind while painting if you choose a plastic layer.

If you moved furniture to the middle of the room, cover that section as well. You want to make sure any hardwood flooring or carpet is safely covered. Accidents can happen, so it's easier to spend a couple extra minutes during preparation, instead of many more minutes cleaning undesired spots and drips after the job is done.

Tape off edges

Thoroughly tape off the edges of the surfaces that won't be changing colors with this particular coat of paint. These surfaces can include:

- adjacent walls
- window and door trim
- moulding

Flatten any bubbling edges and fix any folds. Don't hurry through this step. Cleanly taped and pressed edges will allow you to breeze through the actual painting process. You won't need to worry about creating messy edges because your tape will do that work for you. You can focus on applying smooth, even coats, not hitting the trim.

Prime if necessary

Some surfaces will require you to prime before painting. If this is the case, apply primer to the edges surrounding windows, door frames and the ceiling. Use your paint brush to apply an even coat to these hard-to-get areas. Once those tighter areas are primed, use your roller to apply an even coat of primer to the rest of the surfaces. Let the primer dry according its directions.

Apply fresh paint

If you applied a primer, it is dry by now. If not, your edging tape is securely pressed to its surfaces and your floors, as well as any remaining furniture, is safely covered by your drop cloth.

Now you're ready to paint. Use the same application order described above for the primer step.

- Start with your edges and hard to reach areas use your brush to apply an even coat
- use your brush to apply an even coat

- Use your roller to apply the fresh paint to the rest of the larger, flat surfaces
- Blend in these rolling strokes to your previously applied edging

Let your first coat of paint dry for the amount of time specified by its directions. You may need a second coat at this point. If so, use the same order as the first coat. Let dry and then repeat if necessary.

Once your paint is applied to your room, it's only a matter of time and drying). Once finished, enjoy your fresh new room and take pride in knowing you did it all yourself (for a lot less than the alternative). A beautiful, professional-looking room doesn't need to cost an arm or a leg, especially with a DIY pro like you handling the job.

The One Simple Way To Prep For Any Paint Project!

What steps should you take to prepare for your interior painting project?

Written by: The Olympic® Paints and Stains Team

Preparation is key to a successful paint job once you've decided between wall painting ideas. Before you begin painting your room, make sure your room's interior surfaces are properly prepared.

Before application

1. Remove draperies, pictures and switch and outlet cover plates.
2. Arrange drop cloths to protect carpeting, furniture and any areas not to be painted.
3. Fill holes, imperfections and cracks with caulk.
4. Use a damp cloth to remove any dirt or dust on walls and baseboards. For high use areas you may need to use a mild detergent to remove contaminants such as grease or problem stains.

5. Tape off woodwork and other areas not to be painted at the time.

During application

Be sure to prime any new or bare surfaces, and problem areas. If you simply paint over these areas, the paint will not be able to cover the imperfections properly, which will result in a less-than-satisfactory finished paint job.

Also, you may need to prime if you have chosen a new color that is substantially lighter than your old one. When choosing paint colors for living rooms, for example, make sure to go with a primer if you have dark walls and are switching to a much lighter color. Once the colors and primers have been selected, you're finally ready for the paint!

The 3 Most Common Paint Questions - Answered!

We answer a few questions that our customers regularly have for us

Written by: The Olympic® Paints and Stains Team

How much paint will I need?

To determine the square footage of the interior of a room, multiply the width of the walls by the height of the room. Next divide this number by 400. This will give you the number of gallons you need to purchase. Remember, darker colors generally require more than one coat of paint.

How should I use a paint brush?

For best results with a brush, begin by dipping half the length of the bristles into your paint. Tap the brush gently against the side of the can but do not wipe it across the lip. Hold the handle near the base applying light pressure with your fingertips to make the bristles flex slightly.

How do I use a paint roller?

For best results with a paint roller, begin by slowly rolling it back and forth in the lower end of your roller tray until it is well covered. Then use the ridges in the upper portion of the tray to remove excess paint. Roll on the paint using even strokes to ensure a uniform look and coverage.

Do you have a question?

Feel free to keep exploring our helpful articles. When you're done, be sure to check out our inspiration galleries to find new ideas for those upcoming projects.

Note: It's always a good idea to test your ideas and colors before rolling them out across projects. If you're close to the painting step of your project, **use our digital paint visualizer to make sure your selected colors look great in your space** (and *hey*, experiment with some unexpected shades while you're at it).

room and take pride in knowing you did it all yourself (for a lot less than the alternative). A beautiful, professional-looking room doesn't need to cost an arm or a leg, especially with a DIY pro like you handling the job.

How To Paint A Room: What Paint Should I Choose?

More than just color, consider paint sheen and the difference between oil and latex house paint!

Written by: The Olympic® Paints and Stains Team

Latex paint or oil paint

There are two types of house paint to consider when brainstorming ideas for painting your room:

1. Latex paint

2. Oil paint

Latex house paints are water-based and offer excellent **durability, flexibility** and **easy soap and water clean-up**. Oil-based house paints also provide excellent durability and are known for their smooth application properties. Paint thinner is required for clean-up.

The paint sheen matters

The next feature to consider is paint sheen. Wall sheens can vary depending upon the room; ceilings are usually a flat paint sheen and molding is often a satin or semi-gloss paint sheen.

This guide provides you with more specific paint sheen recommendations by room.

<u>PAIN SHEEN:</u>		<u>FLAT</u>	<u>EGGSHELL</u>	<u>SATIN</u>	<u>SEMI- GLOSS</u>	<u>HI- GLOSS</u>
<u>WALLS:</u>						
	<u>FAMILY ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>LIVING ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>DINING ROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>BEDROOM</u>	*	*	*		
	<u>KID'S ROOM</u>			*	*	
	<u>HALLWAY</u>		*	*		
	<u>KITCHEN & BATH</u>				*	*
<u>ACCENTS, TRIM & ACCESSORIES</u>						
	<u>DOORS/WINDOWS</u>				*	*
	<u>MOULDING</u>				*	*
	<u>CABINETS</u>				*	*
	<u>FURNITURE</u>			*	*	*
	<u>CEILINGS</u>	*				

Application tips & techniques

Estimating the amount of paint

To determine the square footage of the interior of a room, multiply the width of the walls by the height of the room. Next divide this number by 400. This will give you the number of gallons of house paint you need to purchase. Remember, darker colors generally require more than one coat of interior paint.

Using a paint brush

For best results with a paint brush, begin by dipping half the length of the bristles into your paint. Tap the brush gently against the side of the can but do not wipe it across the lip. Hold the handle near the base applying light pressure with your fingertips to make the bristles flex slightly.

Using a roller

For best results with a roller, begin by slowly rolling it back and forth in the lower end of your roller tray until it is well covered. Then use the ridges in the upper portion of the tray to remove excess house paint. Roll on the house paint using even strokes to ensure a uniform look and coverage.

Order your process

Begin from the top down working from unpainted areas into wet, painted areas. Interior oil paints take longer to dry and allow you to brush across the surface several times for a smooth, even finish; latex interior paints dry faster and only one or two strokes are needed.

Ceiling Painting

Start with ceilings first. Using a brush, paint a 2-inch-wide strip on the ceiling where it meets the wall. Then, start in a corner and begin rolling across the short length of the ceiling continuing to where it ends.

Painting walls

Tape off any woodwork, window frames and door trim first. Paint a 2-inch wide strip along the areas near the trim with a brush. Then, using a roller, creating the letter “M” on your wall. Fill in the area rolling from left to right until the surface is completely painted. Remember to roll on the house paint with even strokes to ensure a uniform coverage.

Now choose your paint color!

Now you should be armed with the information that will make your DIY painting project a success. The good news? You can move on to the fun part of picking paint colors! Take a look at our entire paint color palette or browse our Room by Room Brochures to get started.

Should I paint or stain my deck?

Determine your look and protective qualities to determine your product

Written by: The Olympic® Paints and Stains Team

Choosing whether to use paint or stain for your exterior is an important decision, and it can go a long way toward helping you achieve balance and harmony with your surroundings. Whether you use paint, stain, or a little of both, the decision can lead to beautiful results that you'll be proud of for years to come.

Stain with Style

Stains are used on exterior wood surfaces to achieve a more natural look and feel. They also enhance or maintain the beauty of the wood. They come in a variety of opacities, such as Semi-Transparent or Solid, and each offers a different look and wood finish.

Most stains penetrate the surface of wood to achieve deeper, richer hues and provide protection against the elements. For hardwoods, like mahogany or teak, look for a super-penetrating stain like Olympic® ELITE Woodland Oil®. Semi-transparent stains showcase the grain and texture of the wood and can beautifully impact the final look of your project, regardless of your choice of color. Solid color stains are extremely durable and provide rich, opaque color.

They fully coat the surface like paint and help accentuate wood's natural texture.

The Power of Paint

Paint offers almost unlimited options for your exterior design because of its adhesion and color options. Whether it's painting your front door to match your shutters or freshening up your front porch with a new color, paints offer the most flexibility for these jobs.

An exterior paint & primer in one, like *Olympic ONE*, can be applied on many different exterior surfaces like metal, stone, masonry and wood, and can be color matched in any color.

Paints offer a variety of gloss finishes, such as flat, satin and semi-gloss, which allow you to bring life to architectural features or shade imperfections that you hope to keep hidden. Flat sheens are most often used on home's siding (also known as the 'body') while satin & semi-gloss are often used for trim and accents, like shutters