

MULCH CALCULATION REFERENCE

Standard volume, coverage, and ordering formulas for estimating mulch requirements

Mulch Volume Formula

Length × Width × Depth = Volume
(cubic feet)

Cubic Feet ÷ 27 = Cubic Yards

Depth (feet) = Inches ÷ 12

1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet

1 foot = 12 inches

Values assume uniform installed depth.

Mulch Coverage per Cubic Yard

Depth	Coverage
2 inches	~162 sq ft
3 inches	~108 sq ft
4 inches	~81 sq ft
6 inches	~54 sq ft

Coverage values are approximate and vary with material size, settling, and moisture content.

Bulk & Bag Conversions

1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet	
Common Bag Sizes	Bags per Cubic Yard
1.5 cu ft	18 bags
2.0 cu ft	14 bags
3.0 cu ft	9 bags

Common Mulch Depth Ranges

Application	Typical Depth
Decorative Refresh	2 inches
New Bed Install	3 inches
Weed Supression	3-4 inches
Play Areas	Per Safety specification

Excessive depth may restrict airflow at plant bases.

Example Calculation

Landscape Bed: 20 ft × 30 ft × 3 inches

Depth in feet:	Cubic Feet:	Cubic Yards:	If adding 10% allowance:	Rounded order quantity (0.5 yard increment):
$3 \div 12 = 0.25$ ft	$20 \times 30 \times 0.25 = 150$ ft ³	$150 \div 27 = 5.56$ yd ³	$5.56 \times 1.10 = 6.12$ yd ³	6.5 yd ³

Measurement Notes

- Measure each bed separately for irregular layouts
- Break curved areas into simple rectangles or circles
- Convert depth from inches to feet
- Multiple depth measurements may be used on sloped grade
- Depth measured after installation, not loose pile height

Ordering Notes

- Round up when ordering bulk material
- Bulk suppliers may round to 0.5 or 1 cubic yard increments
- Delivery minimums may apply
- Bagged mulch sold by cubic foot
- Cost comparison should include delivery fees