

PAINT CALCULATION REFERENCE

This reference summarizes standard measurements, coverage rates, and estimation values commonly used when planning interior and exterior painting projects.

Coverage Rate by Surface (per gallon)

Interior Smooth Wall	~400 sq ft
Interior Textured Wall	~350 sq ft
Exterior Smooth	~350 sq ft
Exterior Rough/Stucco	~250-300 sq ft
Primer (Interior)	~400 sq ft
Ceiling Paint	~350-400 sq ft

Coverage rates are approximate and vary by paint quality, application method, and surface porosity.

Paint Coverage Formula

Total Area (square feet) ÷ Coverage Rate (sq ft per gallon) = Gallons Needed

Total Area = (Wall Area + Ceiling Area) - (Doors + Windows)

- Length and width measured in feet
- Height measured in feet
- Coverage rate varies by surface type
- Multiply total gallons by the number of coats required.

Standard Deductions

Opening Type	Typical Size
Standard Door	20 sq ft
Slider/French Door	40 sq ft
Standard Window	15 sq ft
Large Window	25-30 sq ft

Can Sizes & Coverage

- One gallon covers ~350-400 sq ft
 - 5-gallon bucket = ~1,750-2,000 sq ft coverage
 - 1-gallon can = ~350-400 sq ft coverage
- Cost Consideration** : 5-gallon buckets are typically 20-30% cheaper per gallon than individual 1-gallon cans.

Primer Types

- PVA Primer: New drywall, patched areas (most common)
- Bonding Primer: Glossy surfaces, oil-based paint
- Stain-Blocking Primer: Water/smoke stains, wood tannins
- High-Build Primer: Dark to light color changes

When Primer is Required

Primer is commonly applied to:

- New drywall or bare drywall
- Patched or repaired areas
- Dark to light color changes
- Glossy or oil-based existing paint
- Stained walls (water, smoke damage)

Primer is often unnecessary for:

- Previously painted walls in good condition (same color family)
- Touch-up work over existing paint

Note: "Paint & Primer in One" products work on previously painted surfaces but are NOT substitutes for separate primer on new drywall.

Measurement Notes

- Measure wall length at baseboard level
- Typical residential ceiling height is approximately 8 feet.
- Round up fractional dimensions
- Account for texture differences in coverage
- Multiple coats on dark colors may need extra material

Ordering Notes

- One coat rarely provides full opacity.
- Two coats are standard for most interior and exterior projects.
- Three coats may be needed for dramatic color changes
- Allow proper dry time between coats (check manufacturer specs)
- Store leftover paint properly for touch-ups