

## HOW MUCH PAINT DO I NEED?

Figuring out the amount of paint that you need is an important early step in your project. There is nothing worse than running out part way through a room and there is also a chance of some colour variation if the paint is not all tinted in one lot.

Paint coverage is usually stated in square metres (m<sup>2</sup>) per litre of paint.

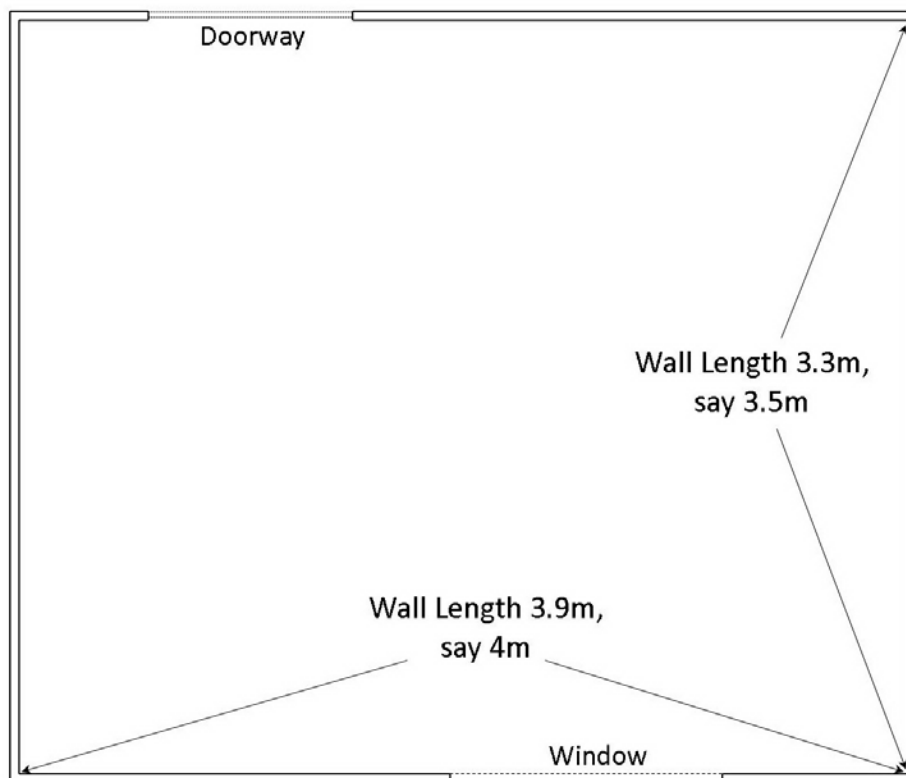
The trick is to remember enough geometry to work out the number of square metres!

### Measure the Room

For a rectangular shaped room, measure the length and the width.

You don't have to be super precise, to the nearest half metre will do, see the example below.

If the room is an unusual shape, you will need to measure the height and width of each section.



*For the Ceiling Area:*

- multiply the length by width  
In the example above, taking the measurement to the nearest half metre, 3.5 multiply by 4 = 14 m<sup>2</sup> for Ceiling Paint

*For the Wall Area:*

- Add the length to the width and multiply by 2. This is the total length of all four walls.  
In our example, 3.5 plus 4 = 7.5 multiply by 2 gives 15 metres wall length
- Now multiply that total by the wall height.  
This gives the Wall Area in m<sup>2</sup> including any doorways and windows.  
For the example, the wall height is 2.4 metres, so 15 times 2.4 = 36 m<sup>2</sup> Wall Area  
Now you need to take away the door and window areas.

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*Here are some standard sized areas:*

For a standard doorway,	subtract 2 m <sup>2</sup>
For a standard sliding glass door	subtract 4 m <sup>2</sup>
For a single size bedroom window	subtract 1.5 m <sup>2</sup>

If the doors and windows are larger, you will need to measure them.

Multiply the width by the height to get area, add them all and subtract from the Wall Area.

In our example, we have one door at 2 m<sup>2</sup> and one window at 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>, so 2 plus 1.5 = 3.7 m<sup>2</sup>

We had 36 m<sup>2</sup> of Wall Area, so 36 subtract 3.7 = 32.3, say 33 m<sup>2</sup> for Wall Paint.

*Other Areas:*

- Doors, Door frames, Architraves, Trim, Cornice & feature areas are often painted in a different shade or with a different paint. Calculate these areas separately.
- Skirting Boards – the area is calculated by multiplying the height times by the length. The length is generally the same as the total wall length.
- Some areas have a triangle shape, like the wall alongside staircase. To get the area, multiply the horizontal length by the vertical and divide by two.

### **How Much Paint?**

Now the areas have been calculated, you need to calculate the paint quantity from the coverage rate. Coverage rates for all Acryloc products are shown in the Product Details on our web site, on the can or you can refer to our handy Coverage Chart. The following is a general guide.

*Sealer/Undercoat:*

You should expect around 10-12 m<sup>2</sup> from one litre of Sealer/undercoat on a smooth, unpainted surface, maybe a little less if the surface is porous. Use the lower figure of 10 m<sup>2</sup> to be safe.

If the 33 m<sup>2</sup> of Walls in our example were unpainted you would allow for Wallboard Sealer and take the middle of the 10-12 m<sup>2</sup> range, so 33 m<sup>2</sup> divided by 11 = 3 Litres

*Top Coats:*

For smooth surfaces, you should expect around 13-15 m<sup>2</sup> from one litre of wall or ceiling paint as a first coat over sealer/undercoat or on a previously painted surface.

The second coat should give a little better coverage, 14-16 m<sup>2</sup> from one litre

For calculation purposes, use an average of ~14 m<sup>2</sup> for all coats

For our Ceiling example, we had 14 m<sup>2</sup> of area so 1 Litre per coat, 2 Litres for 2 coats.

For our Wall example, 33 m<sup>2</sup> divided by 14 = 2.4 Litres per coat, 4.8 Litres for 2 coats.

*Exceptions:*

For porous or rough surfaces you will need approximately 20% more for the first coat  
Mouldings, ornate cornices and other plaster features will require extra paint.

**DON'T** hesitate to ask. We are always happy to provide advice and assistance

For more information or assistance call 1300 661 745 or (08) 8368 0222.

Alternatively e-mail [sales@acryloc.com.au](mailto:sales@acryloc.com.au) or visit [www.acryloc.com.au](http://www.acryloc.com.au)

