

# How much paint do I need?

**To determine how much paint you need for your project you will need the following information:**

1. Surface area of the surface(s) to be painted (excluding areas where there are windows, doors etc).
2. Spreading rate of the paint being used.
3. The number of coats required.

**Once you have the above information, you can calculate the amount required as follows:**

Total surface area (in square metres)  
**DIVIDED BY**  
 Spreading rate of paint (in square metres per litre)  
**MULTIPLIED BY**  
 Number of coats  
**EQUALS**  
 Total litres required

**Porous, rough and textured surfaces (e.g. corrugated iron or rough plaster) will require more paint.**

## For example

1. To paint the living room walls excluding the ceiling. The walls are 3 metres high, each wall is approx 4 metres in width, and windows and doors make up approx 0.5 of a metre of each wall leaving a paintable surface of 3.5 metres per wall. The surface area to paint is therefore 14 metres (4 walls x 3.5 metres each) x 3 metres high = 42 square metres.
2. The walls are currently painted and are in good condition. Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen is the selected paint system. The can label and data sheet tells us that it has a theoretical spreading rate of 11 square metres per litre. (You can also get spreading rate information from the Resene website (check out the Product Data Sheet section)).
3. As the walls are previously painted and in good condition, only 2 coats of Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen are required.

**The amount of paint required is therefore:**

Surface area: 42 square metres  
**DIVIDED BY**  
 Spreading rate: 11 square metres per litre  
**MULTIPLIED BY**  
 Number of coats: 2 coats  
**EQUALS**  
 $42/11 \times 2 = 7.6$  Litres



Worksheet	Example	Your project
Surface	42m <sup>2</sup>	_____ m <sup>2</sup>
Spreading rate per litre	÷ 11m <sup>2</sup> /L	÷ _____ m <sup>2</sup> /L
Number of coats	x 2	x _____
<b>Total paint required</b>	<b>= 7.6 litres</b>	<b>= _____ litres</b>

This tells us that 7.6 litres of paint is required to paint two coats onto the living room walls. The best idea would then be to purchase 8 litres giving enough paint to complete the job and sufficient to go back if touch up is required later.

To make calculating your paint requirements even easier, the Resene website includes a paint calculator. Let your mouse help you with the calculations by visiting [www.resene.co.nz/homeown/probsolv/prob1.htm](http://www.resene.co.nz/homeown/probsolv/prob1.htm).



For ideas, inspiration and instructions:

In Australia: Call 1800 738 383, visit [www.resene.com.au](http://www.resene.com.au) or email us at [advice@resene.com.au](mailto:advice@resene.com.au)

In New Zealand: Call 0800 RESENE (737 363), visit [www.resene.co.nz](http://www.resene.co.nz) or email us at [advice@resene.co.nz](mailto:advice@resene.co.nz)