



DIY Info

Estimating paint... how much 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:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Total surface area (in square metres)} \\
 \textit{Divided by} \div \\
 \text{Spreading rate of paint (in square metres per litre)} \\
 \textit{Multiplied by} \times \\
 \text{Number of coats} \\
 \textit{Equals} = \\
 \text{Total litres required}
 \end{array}$$

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

Worksheet	Example	Your Project
Surface	42m ² m ²
Spreading rate per litre	÷ 11m ² /L	÷ m ²
Number of coats	x 2	x
Total paint required	= 7.6 litres	= litres

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 product 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 two 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 x

Number of coats: 2 coats

Equals =

42/11 x 2 = 7.6 litres

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.com/paintcalculator.

Quick steps...

to estimate paint litres from house plans

To get a rough idea of how much paint you will approximately need when you only have house plans to work from, use the following calculations...

Look for the statement of area on the house plans, e.g. 186m²

Divide this by

÷ 10 = litres of sealer for **ceilings**

÷ 5 = litres of 2 coats for **ceilings**

÷ 4 = litres of sealer for **walls**

÷ 2 = litres of 2 coats for **walls**

÷ 25 = litres of primer for **trim/doors/frames**

÷ 15 = litres of 2 coats for **trim/doors/frames**

This quick estimate works as a general guide for most houses, but extreme designs or colour palettes tailored to each room will need a more careful approach with each room calculated individually.

Resene

the paint the professionals use

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