HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

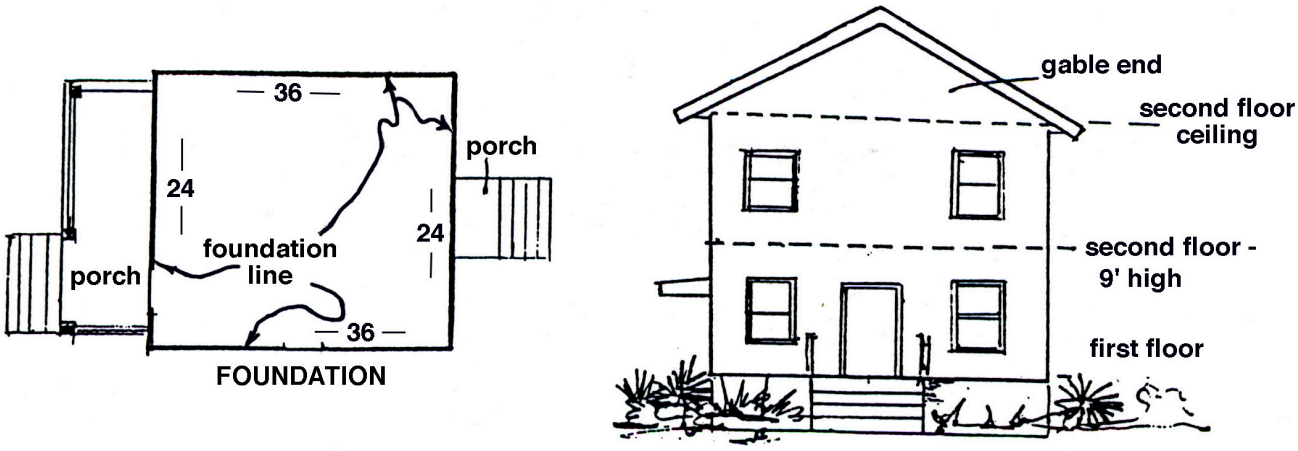
HOW TO MEASURE YOUR HOUSE FOR PAINT

For do-it-yourself repairs

Before painting your house, you'll need to determine how much paint to buy. There is a simple formula that will tell you how much paint you'll need. You must know only two things: the **area to be painted** and the **"paint coverage"** shown on the cans of paint you're planning to purchase.

STEP 1: FIND THE AREA TO BE PAINTED

The first part is easy. Measure the perimeter of your house (the distance around it) – the main part, not including porches or other appendages. Then, multiply that number by the height, and you have the square footage (the area to be painted). Unless you have an exceptional house, use the average "paint height" of 9 feet per story, plus 1/2 the story height for gable ends.



Measure the perimeter along the foundation line (left); figure 9 feet per story, plus half a story for the gable end (right)

EXAMPLE

A house with a 24 ft. by 36 ft. foundation size would have a perimeter of 24' + 24' + 36' + 36', or 120 linear feet. If the house has two stories, then the height would be 9' + 9' + 4-1/2' (for gables), or 22-1/2 linear feet high. When you multiply the 120 ft. perimeter by the 22-1/2 ft. height, you get a 2700 sq. ft. area to be painted.

Don't worry about subtracting the area of the windows and doors you're not going to paint. Most houses have porches, steps, railings, etc., which will need to be painted. The paint for those elements will just about use up the paint you won't be using on the windows and doors. (Incidentally, if you plan to paint the windows and doors in an accent color, allow about 2 quarts.)

STEP 2: DIVIDE BY THE PAINT COVERAGE

Once you have the square footage to be painted, divide that number by the coverage specified by the paint manufacturer. In the example, if the label says that one gallon of paint will cover 250 sq. ft., then you'd divide the 2700 sq. ft. area by 250 sq. ft. per can, to get 10.8 gallons per coat.

CALCULATION	EXAMPLE
Perimeter	24' + 24' + 36' + 36' = 120 ft.
Height (two stories + gable)	9' + 9' + 4-1/2' = 22-1/2 ft.
Area to be painted	120 ft. × 22-1/2 ft. = 2700 sq. ft.
Paint needed per coat	2700 sq. ft. ÷ 250 sq. ft. per gallon = 10.8 gallons

Remember that, with a good quality paint, you're more likely to need only one coat – although, to cover some colors completely, you'll simply have to use additional paint. Your paint dealer should be able to advise you.

Home Repair Resource center

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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