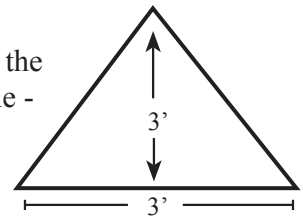
How to Calculate Square Footage

The most common method of estimating the cost of replacing a driveway, sidewalk, patio etc. is by the square foot or square yard. Measuring and calculating area takes two of the three dimensions into account: width and length.

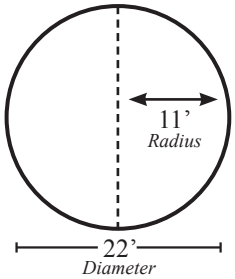
- **Area of the driveway:** To figure the area of the driveway, multiply the length by the width. For example, a driveway that is 16 feet wide (a typical two car garage) and 40 feet long would be calculated as such: 16' x 40' = 640 square feet.
- **Area in square yards:** There are a total of 9 square feet in a square yard, so to calculate the number of square yards for your driveway, or floor as when ordering carpet, divide the total square footage of the driveway by 9 (640 square feet / 9 = 71.11 square yards).

Many driveways are not a perfect rectangle and need additional measurements. Divide the entire driveway into squares, triangles (flairs for example), rectangles and even circles if need be. Then add up the square footage for a total.

- **Area of a triangle:** For the area of a triangle, use this formula: .5 x the base of the triangle x the height of the triangle. If you have a triangle - a flair for example - that is 3 feet wide at the base and 3 feet high from the base to the peak, the calculation would be as follows: (.5 x 3 x 3 = 4.5 sq. ft.).



- **Area of a circle:** The formula for calculating the area of a circle is: pi x radius^2 (pi = 3.1416). So, if you want to know the area of a circle with a 22-foot diameter - which would be an 11-foot radius - the calculation would be: (3.1416 x 11 x 11 = 380.13 sq. ft.).



Example:

A 16' x 3' = 48 sq. ft.
B 1/2 circle (circle = pi x radius^2)
½ (3.1416 x 11 x 11) = 190.06
C 16' x 40' = 640 sq. ft.
D ½ base x height, 1.5' x 3' = 4.5 sq. ft.
E ½ base x height, 1.5' x 3' = 4.5 sq. ft.

Total A-E
48 + 190.06 + 640 + 4.5 + 4.5
= 887.06 total sq. ft.