How Much Mulch/Bark/Gravel Do You Need?

Assuming your planting bed is 20' long and 10' wide:

Square Feet = L x W or 20 x 10 = 200 square feet (SF).

If you are adding compost to a bed, filling a raised bed with soil, or installing a gravel path, you include one more dimension --- **Height.** The math for adding 3" of compost would be:

Cubic Feet = L x W x H

20' x 10' x .25' (3") = 50 cubic feet

You want to know the cubic yard measurement if you intend to buy bulk compost.

Cubic Yard = Cubic Feet ÷ 27 (number of cubic feet in a cubic yard)

50 cubic feet 27 = 1.85 cubic yards

Triangle = (L x W x .50) x H = cubic feet

To calculate the volume of a triangular planting bed, multiply the base length by the height and divide by two. Then multiply that square footage area by the depth of the planting bed.

Circle = (Pi x D.50) x H

3.14 x (W ÷ .50) x Height The circular bed has a 20' width (diameter), Half that width (10') is the radius. Assume 2' for example bed's depth. 'Pi' (3.14) is the constant for area of a circle. = 62.8 cubic feet (or 2.33 c.y.)

For Odd Shapes: Break the space down into squares, rectangles and triangles. Do the math for each shape and add the sums together.