

# How to convert square footage to linear footage so you can estimate how much the materials will cost.

**Multiply the Square Footage x 12 and then divide by the amount of coverage (in inches) each piece of wood will cover.**

Example: How many linear feet of 1x6 tongue and groove lumber will it take to cover 500 square feet of ceiling?

Keep in mind that the coverage on 1x6 T&G is only 5 inches once it is fit together.

500 x 12 divided by 5 = 1200 Linear feet.

NOW: Add at least 5% to this number for waste.

Waste is end trimmings and defect and knot trimmings.

So 1200 Linear feet plus 5% is 1260 Linear feet total.

(Now just multiply the cost per foot x 1260 L.ft)

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**SHORTCUT** for popular sizes of T&G or ShipLap  
(These numbers will add/include a 5% waste factor.)

**For 1x4 T&G products multiply Square Footage x 4.2**  
(if you do not want to include a waste factor then use 4.0)

**For 1x6 T&G products multiply Square footage x 2.52**  
(if you do not want to include a waste factor then use 2.4)

**For 1x8 T&G products multiply Square Footage x 1.95**  
(if you do not want to include a waste factor then use 1.85)

This will only give you an **estimate**. This will never be exact because job site conditions are always different. Also, running boards at an angle will require more footage. As will other job site factors and installer preferences. Many t&g products are not returnable so understand there will probably be some left over boards that you will want to keep or use elsewhere.