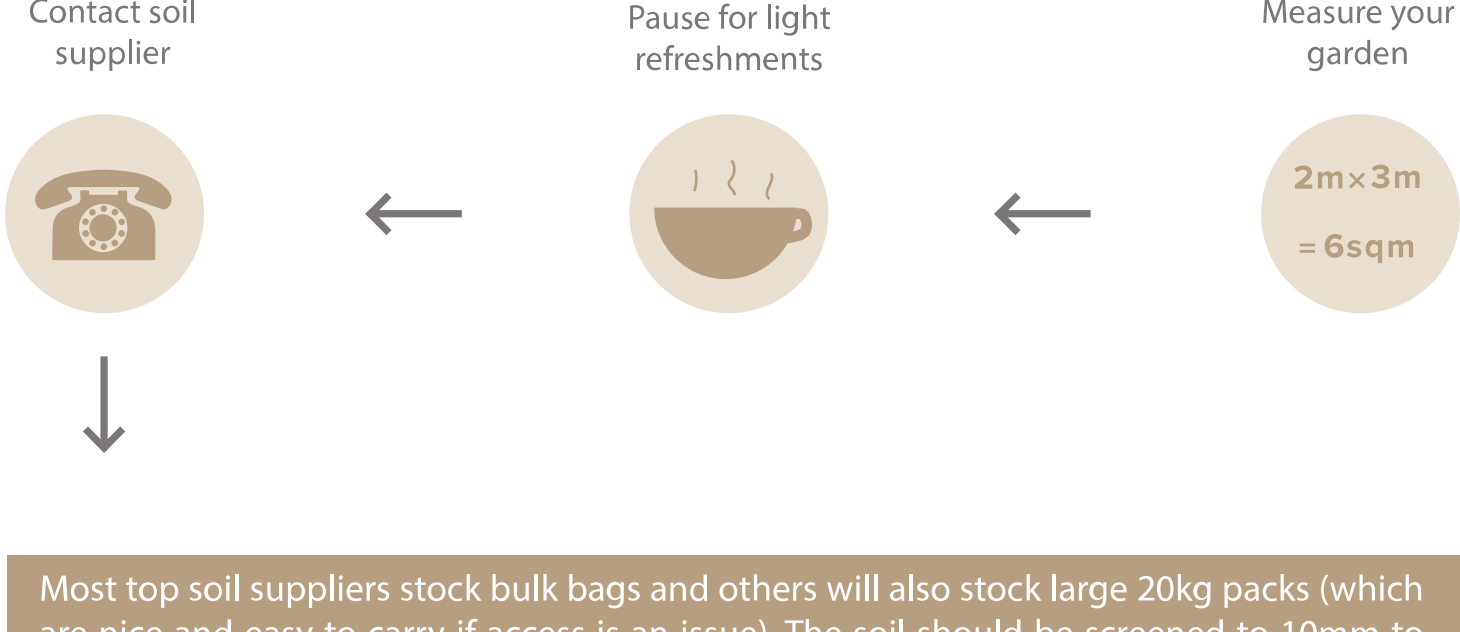


A handy guide to:

MEASURING YOUR GARDEN READY TO LAY TOP SOIL



Thought of renovating your garden with good quality topsoil, but slightly unsure how to measure it how much you need? Look no further. This guide will help whatever weird and wonderful garden shape you may have.



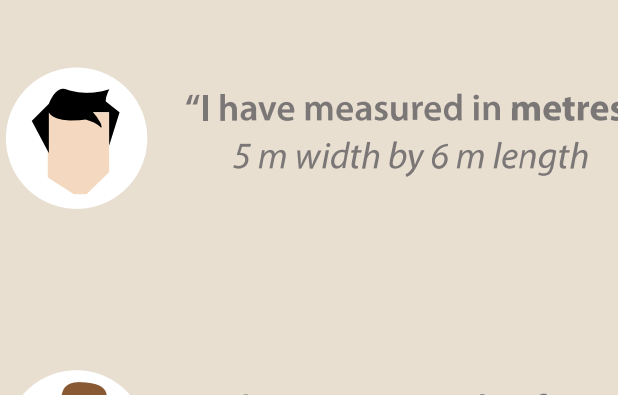
Most top soil suppliers stock bulk bags and others will also stock large 20kg packs (which are nice and easy to carry if access is an issue). The soil should be screened to 10mm to ensure that stones or unwanted objects are removed.

Use the calculations below to first work out the area of your garden in square metres and then the cubic metre figure to get the amount of bulk bags needed.

SQUARE / RECTANGLE



Let's start with the easiest shape, the square/rectangle. It's nice and easy to work out as we just take measurements of the length and width and then multiply them together. We may need to carry out another step based on the units you have used, but we'll get to that next.



Length is always the longest side of an object with width being the shortest.

"I have measured in metres"
5 m width by 6 m length

$5\text{ m} \times 6\text{ m} = 30\text{ square metres}$

"I have measured in feet"
15 ft width by 22 ft length

$15\text{ ft} \times 22\text{ ft} = 330\text{ square feet}$
 $330 \times 0.093 = 31\text{ square metres}$

"I have measured in yards"
7 yds width by 10 yds length

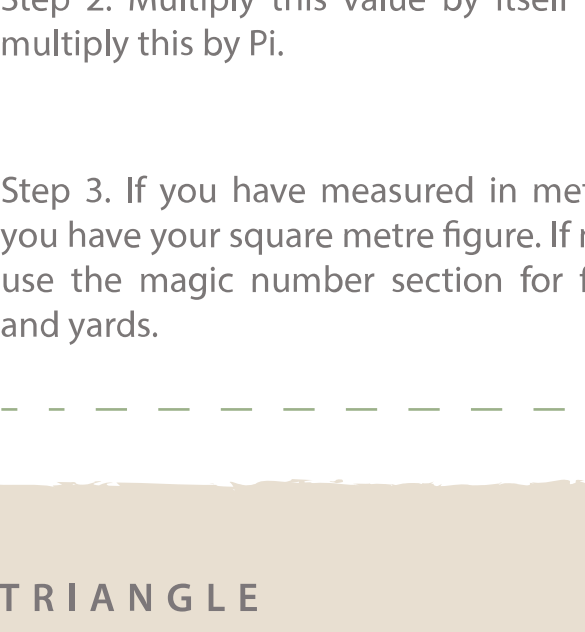
$7\text{ yds} \times 10\text{ yds} = 70\text{ square yards}$
 $70 \times 0.831 = 59\text{ square metres}$

CIRCLE



The circle! This shape probably causes the most problems when it comes to measuring. So if you've forgotten how to calculate the area of a circle since your school days, read on and we'll sort that out in a jiffy.

Step 1. Measure a line from the centre of the circle to the outside. This is the **radius**.



If you have measured in feet or yards, use the magic number section below to give you the numbers to multiply by to get the square metre figure.

"I have measured in yards"
The radius measures 3 yds

$3\text{ yds} \times 3\text{ yds} = 9\text{ square yards}$

$\text{Pi} = 3.14159265359$

$9 \times 3.142 = 28.28$

$28.28 \times 0.831 = 24\text{ square metres}$

TRIANGLE

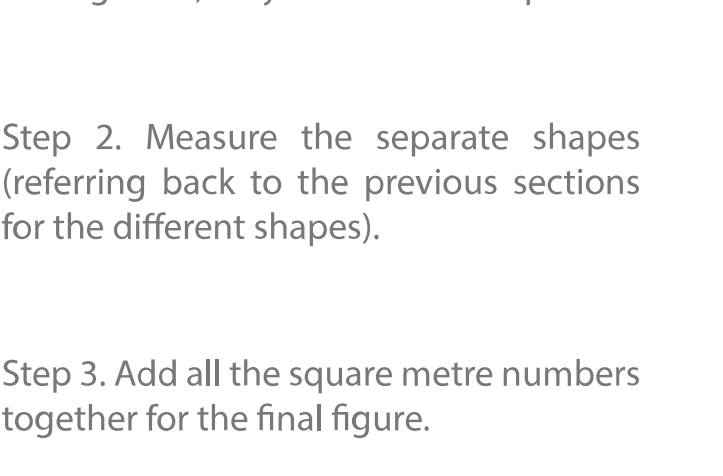


The triangle can be seen as quite a tricky shape to measure. Why? This is due to the area of a triangle differing depending on both the length of the sides and angles within it. However, we feel that the easiest way to do it is as follows:

Step 1. Identify the longest side of your triangular garden. This will be the **base**.

Step 2. Find the opposite corner to the base (not the corners either side of the base).

Step 3. Measure a line from this corner to the base, making sure the line is perpendicular when it meets the base. This needs to be as close to 90° as possible. This is the **height**.



"I have measured in feet"
The base measures 22ft
The height measures 12ft

$22\text{ ft} \times 12\text{ ft} = 264\text{ square feet}$

$264 / 2 = 132$

$132 \times 0.093 = 13\text{ square metres}$

RANDOM



If your garden is a strange shape then don't try to use a complicated formula, just split your garden into manageable shapes. Once you have the figures for the different shapes just add them up. It's as simple as that.

Step 1. Break up your garden into manageable, easy to measure shapes.

Step 2. Measure the separate shapes (referring back to the previous sections for the different shapes).

Step 3. Add all the square metre numbers together for the final figure.

"I have measured in metres"

$3\text{ m} \times 2\text{ m} = 6\text{ square metres}$

$4\text{ m} \times 4\text{ m} = 16\text{ square metres}$

$2\text{ m} \times 2\text{ m} = 4\text{sqm}$
 $4 \times 3.142 = 12.57$
 $12.57 / 2 = 7\text{ square metres}$

Total: **29 square metres**

MAGIC NUMBERS



This is the go-to section for all your conversion needs. The ultimate aim is to be left with a **square metre** figure so you can then use this to work out the cubic metre figure. If you have measured in feet or yards, use the conversion numbers below to get to a square metre figure then go onto the next step below to work out how much soil you require.

"I have measured in feet"

"I have measured in yards"

multiply number by 0.093

multiply number by 0.831

THE MAGICAL SQUARE METRE FIGURE

CALCULATING HOW MUCH TOPSOIL IS NEEDED



Now we have the square metre figure for your particular garden shape we can then work out the volume of soil needed to cover this area. The equation is as follows:

$\text{SQM} \times \text{DEPTH (CM)} = \text{CUBIC METRES}$

EXAMPLE

If the area of your garden is 50sqm with the desired depth of around 0.25cm (1 inch), the following calculation can be carried out.

50sqm

DEPTH: 0.025cm

$50\text{sqm} \times 0.025\text{cm} = 1.25\text{ cubic metres}$
 $1.25\text{ cubic metres} / 0.75\text{ cubic metres} = 1.66^*$

A bulk bag will usually cover the area of around 30sqm. Therefore, rounding 1.66 up will result in 2 bulk bags.

CONCLUSION

By following the steps in this guide, you should be able to measure your garden in no time and work out how many bulk bags you need. As the end result is in cubic metres, it's always best to get the square metre figure as it makes it much easier to work with. So there you have it! You should now have a better idea of how much top soil you need for your garden project. If all else fails though, you can always ask your chosen supplier for a bit of guidance.