



# Take Measures

## Of Cubits and Square Footage

Was the only reason you got into college because you got a perfect score on the English half of the SAT? Do you need a calculator to figure out how much you're going to save at the 10% Off Blue Light Special? And do you have to ask the sales clerk at KMart for help with how to use your calculator?

Not to worry, math-phobes! Use our Foolish Crib Sheet as you look for your new home. And if you come across a prickly calculation that we haven't covered here, come on over to the Fool Home message board and we'll figure it out together.

### Measurements

–Linear is a measurement made on a straight line. One linear yard is three feet long.

–Square is a flat two-dimensional measurement. A square yard is a square with sides of three feet each:  $3' \times 3' = 9 \text{ sq. ft.}$  or 1 square yard.

–Cubic is a three-dimensional measurement of volume. A cubic yard is a cube with height, width, and depth of three feet each:  $3' \times 3' \times 3' = 27 \text{ cu.ft.}$  or 1 cubic yard.

### Units of Measurement

- 12 inches = 1' (foot)
- 1 mile = 5,280 feet
- 1 acre = 43,560 square feet
- 1 rod = 16.5 feet
- 1 mile = 320 rods

### Conversions

- To convert square feet to square inches, multiply the number of square feet by 144. ( $\text{sq. ft.} \times 144 = \text{sq. in.}$ )
- To convert square inches to square feet, divide the number of square inches by 144. ( $\text{sq. in.} / 144 = \text{sq. ft.}$ )
- To convert square yards to square feet, multiply the number of square yards by 9. ( $\text{sq.yd.} \times 9 = \text{sq. ft.}$ )
- To convert square feet to square yards, divide the number of square feet by 9. ( $\text{sq. ft.} / 9 = \text{sq.yd.}$ )
- To convert square feet to acres, divide the number of square feet by 43,560. ( $\text{sq. ft.} / 43,560$ )

## Percentages

– A percentage (%) means per hundred. ( $25\% = 1/4$  or 25 parts of 100 parts)

–To convert % to decimals: Drop the % sign and move the decimal two places to the left. ( $10\% = 0.10$  or  $1\% = 0.01$ )

–To add or subtract decimals, don't forget to line up the decimal points.

## Abbreviations

a = area

b = base

d = depth

h = height

l = length

v = volume

w = width

cu. = cubic

ft. = feet

in. = inches

sq. = square

' - the symbol for feet

" - the symbol for inches

## Math-Heavy Definitions

*Annual:* Yearly

*Biannual:* Twice a year (also semiannual)

*Biennial:* Every two years

*Front foot:* A standard one-foot-wide parcel of land at the frontage on the house's main street line.

*Mill:* Expressing a tax rate, 1/10 of one cent (0.001). Mill rate is a tax rate expressed as so many mills on each dollar of assessed value.