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How to measure linear board feet

Thompson Mahogany sells lumber in board feet (BF) and decking in lineal feet (LF). For our customers who need a conversion, see the board feet to lineal feet table below. Linear feet (LF) is a measurement of length of a specific sized board. Board feet (BF) is a measurement of volume which the a Board foot is 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 inch thick volume. Nominal Size Lineal Feet (LF) Board Feet (BF) 1 x 4 1 0.333330 1 x 6 1 0.500000 1 x 8 1 0.666667 5/4 x 4 1 0.416667 5/4 x 6 1 0.625000 5/4 x 8 1 0.833333 5/4 x 10 1 1.041667 2 x 2 1 0.333333 2 x 4 1 0.666667 2 x 6 1 1.000000 2 x 8 1 1.333333 2 x 10 1 1.666667 2 x 12 1 2.000000 3 x 6 1 1.500000 3 x 8 1 2.000000 4 x 4 1 1.333333 6 x 6 1 3.000000 If you have any questions about how to go about the conversions or the units feel free to ask below in the comments or contact us. There are a lot of factors that go into calculating how much your move will cost. To ensure that you go in with a complete understanding of what your movers will be using to determine your estimate and final cost, we'll explain how to calculate linear feet the right way — at least, the right way for the moving industry. What is a linear foot? A linear foot, also referred to as a "lineal foot", is 12 inches or one foot. The word "linear" just means the measurement refers to a straight line. What sets it apart from other measurements? Many methods of measurement, like cubic square feet and cubic feet, account for width and height as well as linear distance. If you are determining how much space you need in a moving truck or how much of some building materials you will need for a project, the width and height will be fixed. All you need to determine is the linear, or straight-line, length. In what instances would you need to know, and how do calculate a linear foot? Home improvement projects like building decks, fencing, or bookshelves will generally utilize materials with fixed widths, meaning you only need to know how many feet of each material you will need. For example: if you are using 2x4" boards, you may need 8 linear feet of board. For moving, many companies determine the cost of your move by how much linear feet your cargo takes up in the truck. To measure linear feet, measure the length in inches, then divide by 12 to determine linear feet. No complicated calculations required, as when you're measuring square footage! Why is this important to know for moving? Many moving companies use linear foot measurements to determine the cost of a given move. Using markers for the linear feet inside a trailer, your initial quote will allow for a certain number of linear feet capacity. When you are at the stage of trying to estimate the cost of your move, it is important to know what this distance means so that you can best estimate how much cargo you will need to be loaded and how much that will likely cost. Your quote will likely include a "per-foot adjustment rate" in case you need less or more space on the truck. Of course, learning how pack and load a moving truck well (side to side as well as utilization of space) can make a big difference in efficiently using your allotted space on the truck and therefore cost. Tip: if you're wondering how to convert square feet to linear feet, there is no direct translation since square feet accounts for more factors. You'll just need to measure the linear length. With highly skilled and professional local moving companies, you won't need to worry too much about making all sorts of measurements. They'll help you understand how to best transport your cargo in a cost-effective manner! When you're trying to complete a DIY project, understanding the construction industry's terms of measurement can seem challenging. The easy truth is that lumber is sold in linear feet, meaning its price is based on the length of the lumber, regardless of its width. When you are trying to determine linear feet for a certain project, for example a shelving unit, there is a bit of measuring involved but otherwise it's a straightforward task. Lineal Foot – A lineal foot one is 1 foot in length or 12 inches. It is a measurement of a straight line. Board Foot – is actually a measurement of volume. A board foot is one square foot, one inch thick. To calculate board foot = width in inches x length in feet x thickness in inches. Running Foot - is used in woodworking and means the same as a lineal foot. Refers to a one-dimensional measurement of length. Square Foot - Is a unit of area in the imperial measurement system. A square measurement is the 2-dimensional derivative of a lineal measurement, so a square foot is defined as the area of a square with sides 1 foot in length. Linear footage might not be a familiar measurement to you, and you might be asking yourself what it is and how to find it? A linear foot is simply a length measurement equal to one foot. To find linear footage, you simply need to measure the length in feet, that's it. The term "linear" means a shape or movement in a straight line.[1] So, a linear foot measurement is a straight line measurement; width, height, or thickness measurements aren't included. Linear footage is a measure of length and is commonly used to measure an object or material's length. You might also see this measurement referred to as a lineal foot. Linear feet and the length in feet are the same measurements, so one foot is one linear foot. You might see some supplies sold using this measurement. For example, flooring, lumber, fencing, and fabrics are commonly sold by the linear foot. Finding linear footage requires finding the footage measurement. Use a tape measure and measure the length of your space or object. Since linear footage is a measurement of length, the width and thickness measurements are not needed. If your measurement is not in feet, simply convert to feet and you have the correct measurement. Use our inch fraction calculator to convert inches or centimeters to feet. How to Find the Linear Feet of Multiple Boards To find the linear feet of multiple pieces of lumber, you need to measure the length of each piece and add the measurements together. Take note of the each board's length and after all measurements are complete, then use a calculator such as our feet and inches calculator to add the feet measurements together. Calculating the cost of lumber priced by the linear foot requires finding the total feet needed and then multiplying by the price per foot. Thus, the total cost is equal to the total length in feet by the price per foot. When ordering material this way, it's a good idea to consider the lengths that lumber is sold by since you may need additional material to avoid unnecessary joints. We recommend ordering an extra 10% of materials to account for off-cuts and waste as a general rule of thumb. How are Linear Feet Different From Square Feet? You might be wondering how linear feet are different from square feet. Recall that linear footage is a length measurement. On the other hand, square footage is an area measurement, so it's a two-dimensional measurement. You can use our conversion calculator to change measurements between them if needed. Common Lengths in Linear Feet Refer to the chart below for common lengths in inches and their equivalent linear footage measurements. Linear feet measurements for common inch measurements in 6" increments. Distance in Inches Linear Feet 6" 0.5 ft 12" 1 ft 18" 1.5 ft 24" 2 ft 30" 2.5 ft 36" 3 ft 42" 3.5 ft 48" 4 ft 54" 4.5 ft 60" 5 ft 66" 5.5 ft 72" 6 ft 78" 6.5 ft 84" 7 ft 90" 7.5 ft 96" 8 ft 102" 8.5 ft 108" 9 ft 114" 9.5 ft 120" 10 ft 126" 10.5 ft 132" 11 ft 138" 11.5 ft 144" 12 ft 150" 12.5 ft 156" 13 ft 162" 13.5 ft 168" 14 ft 174" 14.5 ft 180" 15 ft 186" 15.5 ft 192" 16 ft 198" 16.5 ft 204" 17 ft 210" 17.5 ft 216" 18 ft 222" 18.5 ft 228" 19 ft 234" 19.5 ft 240" 20 ft When building a project from wood, it makes sense that you would need to know some special jargon. After all, as you estimate the amount of materials you'll need, you're essentially describing an abstract three-dimensional project that still only exists in your mind. How you express what you need is an important factor in making sure you estimate the overall cost correctly and end up with the right amount of materials. One of the most commonly misused phrases we've heard at our lumber stores is the term "board feet." In this article, we'll break down exactly what that means (it might not be what you think it is!), how to calculate it, and when is the right time to use it. But first, let's start with some definitions of things that aren't board feet - but are sometimes mistaken for such. Linear feet Simply put, the term "linear feet" is a measurement of length. That can be the length of the amount of fencing you want to install, or the length of an individual board. You'll use this term when estimating the amount and cost of materials you'll need for a project. Be clear about what "linear feet" is referring to as you scope out your project. Calculating the cost of a "fence that is 100 linear feet long" is very different than discussing a "board that costs 10 cents per linear foot." If you're determining cost and materials on your own, ask the team at the lumber store to double check your work. They'll make sure you're not drastically off-base. One additional note: you may hear people saying, "lineal feet" instead of "linear feet." Though they mean the same thing, the correct term is linear feet. Area Sometimes we hear customers mistakenly use the term "board feet" when what they are actually referring to is area. When calculating the amount of materials you need for large surfaces (ex. exterior siding), knowing the area of the space you'll need to cover is the first step. This is where middle school math comes in handy. Surface area calculations are simple: Length x Width, which gives you total square feet. Don't worry about subtracting anything out for windows and doors (better to have a little too much wood than not enough) and always buy an additional small percentage to account for downfall (the occasional warped or discolored board that you don't want to use). The final definition of board feet The true definition of "board feet" is not a calculation of length. Believe it or not, it's a calculation of volume. The term is most often used by lumber producers who need to determine how many board feet they can obtain from each tree they harvest. Therefore, this is not a term that you will likely ever need to use at the lumber yard. However, if the term has piqued your curiosity, here's a quick run-down. One board foot is measured as 1x12x1. Notice that this board is a square (1 foot equals 12"). A 1x6x1 has 0.5 board feet. This board has half (0.5) the volume of the 1x12x1 board. Sometimes it helps to visualize the "missing" half of the board foot. A 1x10x1 has 0.833333 board feet (We multiply the 1" thickness by the 10" width then divide by 12 to calculate our board foot factor (BFF), which is the number of board feet per linear foot. So, this 1' long board has 0.833333 board feet of material. A 2x6x1 has .one board foot of volume. That's right, ONE board foot. Why? Imagine that you started with a 1x12x1, which we know equals one board foot. Then imagine you moved 0.5 board feet from the right side of the board and stacked it on top of the left side of the board to create a 2x6. The volume of material didn't change. A 2x8x1 has 1.333333 board feet. Since a 2x6 has one board foot, divide this 8" width by 6 to calculate the board foot factor of 1.333333. A 2x4x1 has 0.6666667 board feet. Since a 2x6 has one board foot, divide the 4" width by 6 to calculate the board foot factor of 0.6666667, etc. To calculate the BFF: (Thickness x Width) / 12. Or, use this handy Board Foot Factor (BFF) table. Now let's look at how Board Feet works for more traditional lengths of lumber. To calculate total board feet: Board Foot Factor x Length A 1x12x10 board has 10 total board feet in it: the board foot factor (BFF) of a 1x12 is 1. Multiply 1 by the length of 10, which gives total board feet of 10. A 1x6x10 board has 5 total board feet in it: the board foot factor (BFF) of a 1x6 is 0.5. Multiply 0.5 by the length of 10 which gives total board feet of 5. Tip: Both of these previous boards measure 10 Linear Feet (LF) because, remember, LF does not take thickness and width into consideration. A 2x4x10 board has 6.66667 total board feet in it: the board foot factor (BFF) of a 2x4 is 0.666667. Multiply 0.66667 by the length of 10 which gives total board feet of 6.66667. A 2x4x14 board has 9.33333 total board feet in it: The board foot factor (BFF) of a 2x4 is 0.66667. Multiply 0.66667 by the length of 14 which gives total board feet of 9.33333, and so on... - - - - Using the correct terms as you talk about your project helps our lumber specialists make sure you're buying what you need. So, unless you're thinking of getting into the logging industry, the measurement terms you'll need are probably linear feet and square feet, but unlikely board feet. That said, talk to the team at the lumber yard about your projects so they can make sure you're covered. Need some assistance estimating the cost of your upcoming lumber project? Our local lumber specialists can help. how to figure out linear board feet. how do you calculate linear board feet

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