

# Determining how much compost to apply.

One of the most common questions we receive is “How much compost do I need?” Follow these simple steps:

1

## Determine square footage you are amending.

Calculate **LENGTH** (*in feet*) x **WIDTH** (*in feet*) = **SQUARE FEET**

Since most areas are not “square,” you’ll need to do some estimations. In a garden bed, for example, measure the entire area and then adjust your measurements up or down to account for curves and indentations.

2

## Determine depth.

Calculate **DEPTH** (*in Inches*) ÷ **12** = **FEET**. (*Example: 2 inches = .167 feet*)

### ■ New Beds or Applications

If your soil has not been recently (or ever) amended, plan to work in compost with soil using a rototiller or forked rake. If the soil is hard, use a pointed shovel and invert the mixture to incorporate. The depth to which you want an improved soil should include the depth of rooting and a percentage below that. 20% is good, but you may need a consult to determine optimum based on soil condition, age of bed, and the plants you’re growing.

### ■ Established beds or topdressing

Topdress over an existing bed that is in good condition and allow for normal weathering to work it into the profile or blend in lightly on the surface.

### ■ Don’t overdo it

Compost is organic matter. It should be part of growing media, not as the primary media in which plants will grow. It needs to break down to feed the soil and the microbes within it to improve soil health. Excessive compost can create a waterlogged condition, and potentially harm your plants and/or their roots.

3

## Determine cubic volume.

Calculate **LENGTH X WIDTH X DEPTH** in feet and then determine cubic yards:  
**1 Cubic Yard = 27 Cubic Feet**

<b>New bed using existing or purchased “topsoil”</b>	4” depth, mixed with the surface 8 to 12” (30-50% soil blend) 4” ÷ 12” = .33’ deep	Ave width of 8’ x Ave length of 12’ = Total Square Feet 96	.33’ deep x 96 sq ft = 31.68 cu ft ÷ 27 = 1.17 cubic yards
<b>Topdressing existing beds in good condition</b> ( <i>ex: balance of all your beds</i> )	2” depth to be applied over the top and lightly blended in .167’ deep	Ave width = 8’ x 200’ total length = Total Square Feet 1600’	.167’ deep x 1600 sq ft = 267 cu ft ÷ 27 = 9.89 cubic yards

EcoVerde Organics will be happy to assist you with calculating your needs, including a site visit to assess your soil condition, and matching the correct product to the application for optimum cost and plant growth efficiency.

Visit [EcoVerdeCompost.com](http://EcoVerdeCompost.com), call (716) 209-3166, or email [EcoVerdeOrganics@gmail.com](mailto:EcoVerdeOrganics@gmail.com).



**EcoVerde**  
ORGANICS

NONE OF OUR PRODUCTS ARE DERIVED FROM SEWAGE SLUDGE OR MUNICIPAL WASTE SYSTEMS. Our systems and methods are in compliance with the U.S. Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Certification Program.