



HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN USING THE FABRICMATE SITE-FABRICATED SYSTEM

PANEL TRACK

To calculate the amount of track you will need, you will first have to know your “layout”--basically, the width of the fabric to be used, where the seams are located (vertically and/or horizontally) and the lengths of all items to be tracked around (running length of room, windows, doors and other fixed obstacles).

After determining your layout and fabric widths, measure the perimeters first (length of panels, ends of panels and lengths around any fixed items such as windows, doors, marker boards, etc.). This will be your perimeter track (where there will be an exposed edge) requirement. (Note: When panels on adjacent surfaces meet, such as a corner, the panels will share this track so don't count it twice. Use FS100 track for ½” thick panels and FS150 track for 1” thick panels in such locations.)

The final step in calculating your track requirements is to account for your “intermediate” or “seam” locations. Only count these seam lengths once. If the seams are to be square, use FS100 track for ½” thick panels and FS150 track for 1” thick panels. If the seams are to be beveled, use FS230 track for ½” thick panels and FS280 track for 1” thick panels.

INSULATION/SUBTRATE/CORE

Call it what you will, it is the easiest part of the “takeoff”. Simply calculate the square footage of your panels. Decide whether the core is best applied with 4' x 8' sheets or 2'x4' pieces (for smaller areas).

When installing the core, try to keep the “seams” (where two pieces of core abut) where they will not be as visible. For example, it's better not to place horizontal seams at eye level. Make straight cuts and try not to leave gaps where pieces of core abut. Always have extra material on hand.

FABRIC

Measure panel lengths of full width panels. For example, if you know the fabric is 66 inches wide, take the length of the panels in feet and divide by 3. Fabric is always figured in linear yards---not feet. If your wall is 20 feet long, you will need 7 yards of fabric.

Using “cutoffs” is important for maximizing the use of materials. If panels are less than ½ a width of your fabric type (less than 32” for 66” material), you will be able to use the “cutoff” on another panel of similar or less width. Be sure when ordering your fabric to account for areas where you are able to use the cutoffs. This can significantly reduce fabric costs.

Always add at least 2 inches to the length of every panel to allow for fabric insertion into the track and for adjustments that may be necessary. For example, if the panel is 20 feet long, a 7 yard piece (21 feet) would allow an extra 6 inches per side. When calculating fabric requirements, make sure to account for extra material---you do not want to run short.

Make sure if your fabric is “directional” that you do not turn it from vertical to horizontal (or vice versa) when using cutoffs or smaller sized panels. Similarly, pay attention to any “pattern” (or “repeat”) the fabric may have. There are fabrics that both have patterns and are directional. This information will always be on the fabric's specification sheet and can often be found on the corresponding color card or memo sample.

Our technical staff is always available to assist you. Please call us at (866) 622-2996.



Fabricmate® Tips for Figuring Installation Time

A guideline that installers have used to calculate the time for an installation is as follows:

Use total linear feet of track multiplied by a given minute formula. Five minutes being the baseline is the best case scenario. You can add to that number based on the complexity of the project. Divide your total number by 60 (# of mins. in an hour) to get the amount of man hours to install. Be sure to add an additional five minutes for each electrical outlet, light switch and inside corner.

Example: 1000 linear feet of track multiplied by five = 5000 divided by 60 = 83.3 hours multiplied by current labor rate will give you cost for labor. ($1000 \times 5 = 5000 \div 60 = 83.3 \times \text{current labor rate}$) Calculation is for one person to install everything (Track, Backing Material, & Fabric)

Note: this is just a guide to calculate the time it will take to do an installation. Any given variable will impact overall calculation.

Some examples that will increase the amount of time & labor needed for a project:

- Highly panelized lay-out
- Attaching Panels to CMU or Plaster (Anchors & screws)
- Ceiling Installations(working above head or Scaffolding)
- Difficult Fabrics or Patterned Fabrics
- Mobilization or job conditions (multiple stories)
- Multiple trade contractors working in like are

Some examples that will save you time:

- Pre-cut your Track and Material
- Tool preparation (the right tools for the job)
- Plan your work and work your plan
- Practice, practice, and more practice