Julie Snell of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has calculated this formula for mulch requirements:

Calculate the square footage of the area to be mulched by multiplying length times width. For a three-inch layer of mulch, multiply your square footage by 0.25. This will give you the total in cubic feet.

If you need to know cubic yards, divide the cubic-foot total by 27. There are 27 cubic feet in one cubic yard. If you need the metrics, one cubic foot equals 0.0283 cubic metres and one cubic yard equals 0.765 cubic metres.

As seen in the Weekend Post (National Post) Newspaper April 2008