

*A department policy is based on an interpretation of a code provision
and is subject to change based on new information.*

DETERMINING SQUARE FOOTAGE

Measurements for calculating fees and/or building size:

Building area is the area within surrounding exterior walls (or exterior walls and fire walls) exclusive of vent shafts and courts. Areas of the building not provided with surrounding walls shall be included in the building area if such areas are included within the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above (CBC 502.1).

Rooms with a sloping ceiling and reduced height:

The measurements are generally taken to the outside of any knee wall or to the point of contact between floor and wall.

Stairways, chimneys & Bay windows:

A stairway is measured one time unless a portion of the floor under stairway is developed.

Chimney chases and bay windows are measured if they originate at the floor level.

The Building Official on a case-by case basis shall approve the measurement points of alternative types of construction.

Determination of specific requirements:

For the purposes of determining occupant load, minimum square footage requirements, and/or light and ventilation, rooms or areas are measured to the inside face of finished walls.