

Study Guide and Intervention

7MG1.1, 7MG2.4

Converting Square and Cubic Units of Measure

Some of the units of area in the customary system are in², ft², yd², and mi².
Some of the units of area in the metric system are cm² and m².

Example 1 Convert 5 square yards to square feet.

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \text{ yd}^2 &= 5 \cdot \cancel{\text{yd}} \cdot \cancel{\text{yd}} \cdot \frac{3 \text{ ft}}{1 \cancel{\text{yd}}} \cdot \frac{3 \text{ ft}}{1 \cancel{\text{yd}}} \\ &= 45 \text{ ft}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Example 2 Convert 2.5 square meters to square centimeters.

$$\begin{aligned} 2.5 \text{ m}^2 &= 2.5 \cdot \cancel{\text{m}} \cdot \cancel{\text{m}} \cdot \frac{100 \text{ cm}}{1 \cancel{\text{m}}} \cdot \frac{100 \text{ cm}}{1 \cancel{\text{m}}} \\ &= 25,000 \text{ cm}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Some of the units of volume in the customary system are in³, ft³, yd³, and mi³.
Some of the units of volume in the metric system are cm³ and m³.

Example 3 Convert 1,500 cubic centimeters to cubic meters.

$$\begin{aligned} 1,500 \text{ cm}^3 &= 1,500 \cdot \cancel{\text{cm}} \cdot \cancel{\text{cm}} \cdot \cancel{\text{cm}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ m}}{100 \cancel{\text{cm}}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ m}}{100 \cancel{\text{cm}}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ m}}{100 \cancel{\text{cm}}} \\ &= \frac{1,500 \text{ m}^3}{1,000,000} \\ &= \frac{65,000 \text{ m}}{2,237.04 \text{ sec}} \\ &= 0.0015 \text{ m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Convert 30 square feet to square meters.

$$\begin{aligned} 30 \text{ ft}^2 &= 30 \cdot \cancel{\text{ft}} \cdot \cancel{\text{ft}} \cdot \frac{0.3048 \text{ m}}{1 \cancel{\text{ft}}} \cdot \frac{0.3048 \text{ m}}{1 \cancel{\text{ft}}} \\ &\approx 2.79 \text{ m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Example 4 Complete each conversion. Round to the nearest hundredth if necessary.

1. $6 \text{ ft}^2 = \blacksquare \text{ in}^2$

2. $0.25 \text{ m}^2 = \blacksquare \text{ cm}^2$

3. $18 \text{ ft}^2 = \blacksquare \text{ yd}^2$

4. $189 \text{ ft}^3 = \blacksquare \text{ yd}^3$

5. $2 \text{ m}^3 = \blacksquare \text{ cm}^3$

6. $3,456 \text{ in}^3 = \blacksquare \text{ ft}^3$

7. $24 \text{ cm}^2 \approx \blacksquare \text{ in}^2$

8. $15 \text{ ft}^3 \approx \blacksquare \text{ m}^3$

9. $7 \text{ in}^3 \approx \blacksquare \text{ cm}^3$