



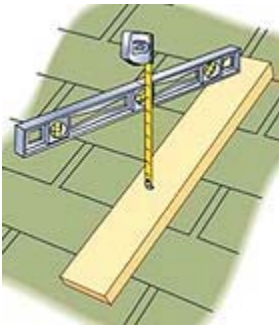
### How to Measure Your Roof's Pitch and Square Feet

#### Pitch

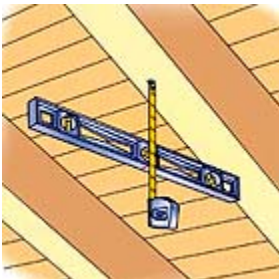
To accurately calculate the size of your roof, you must first determine its slope, or pitch. Roof pitches are described in terms of *rise* and *run*. The *run* is the distance from the outside edge of a perimeter stud wall to the center of the house. The *rise* is the vertical distance from the top of a stud wall to the peak of the roof. A roof's pitch is determined by how much it rises for every foot it runs. Thus a moderate 6-in-12 roof pitch means the roof rises 6 inches for every 12 horizontal inches it runs. A 12-in-12 pitch is a steep, 45-degree angle roof.

To calculate your roof's pitch, you need a level and a tape measure or ruler. Mark a spot on the bottom of the level 12 inches from one end.

Now, with ruler and tape, there are three ways to find the roof's pitch:



1. On a ladder beside the roof, place the level a foot or so up the roof, hold it level, and measure from the 12-inch mark on the bottom of the level straight down to the roof. If it is 4 inches, you have a 4-in-12 pitch; 8 inches and you have an 8-in-12 pitch.
2. >On a ladder at the gable end of your house, place the level against the barge rafter (the one on the roof overhang) with the 12-inch mark on the rafter's bottom edge. Now measure from the end of the level up to the bottom edge of the rafter. That is the roof's rise.
3. In the attic, place the level against a rafter with the 12-inch mark on the bottom of the rafter. Measure from the end of the level up to the bottom edge of the rafter. That is the roof's rise.



#### Square Feet

If your roof is flat or no more than a 3-in-12 pitch, you can calculate its total square footage by simply multiplying length times width. This nominal square footage amount must then be multiplied by a factor associated with the roof's pitch

For steeper roofs, use the [Roof Area Calculator](#). (courtesy of claimrep.com) Measure your house at ground level, then add in the roof's overhang for more accurate dimensions. As an example, if the roof overhang is 12 inches, that would add 2 feet to the overall length and 2 feet to the overall width of the house. The calculator factors in the roof's pitch.