

9. THE HOW MANY YARDS OF CEMENT PROBLEM

It is no wonder that students have problems with dimensions when carpet stores refer to yards (when they mean square yards) and cement stores refer to yards (when they mean cubic yards).

One day a local carpenter informed me that the best way of calculating how many yards of cement to order for a job was to simply take the length in feet times the width in feet and divide by 80.

Later I determined that this method was in error but understood why they used this formula instead of the actual one. Can you determine what I did?