LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Mulch, reuse and delivered-price worksheet

Measure the added material, compare bagged and bulk quotes, and plan what can stay or be reused.

By Jeff Clerisier, Founder of Trojan Digital Marketing. Published 2023-06-13. Updated 2026-11-28.

Buy for the change you are making

Sketch the planting beds and divide irregular shapes into measured sections. Record the existing mulch separately from the additional layer you intend to add. A top-up is not the same order as starting with a bare bed. Choose the material and added depth for the plants and site with local extension guidance; the calculator measures your choice rather than prescribing it.

Iowa State Extension explains the volume method: square feet × added depth in inches ÷ 12 gives cubic feet; divide that result by 27 for cubic yards. Divide cubic feet by the volume printed on one bag and round up to whole bags. A bulk supplier may sell in set increments or apply a minimum order.

- Measure each section once and avoid overlapping areas.
- Record the bag volume, not just its price or apparent size.
- Ask where a bulk load can be placed and how it will be moved.

A quantity example, not a planting recommendation

For a measured 180-square-foot area with a user-selected 1.5-inch addition, the volume is 22.5 cubic feet, or about 0.833 cubic yard. That requires 12 bags of 2 cubic feet, or 15 bags of 1.5 cubic feet. The two bag sizes produce different purchased volumes, so compare the delivered order rather than the price of one bag.

Ask the bulk supplier to quote the actual order increment, delivery, minimum charge and any access restrictions. Keep installation labor separate if you are hiring help. An advertised material price alone does not answer what the project will cost.

Observed material prices: a small dated sample

On November 28, 2026, The Home Depot public US listing displayed the two prices below without a delivery ZIP or store selected. These are material-only observations, not installed prices or a national range. Tax, delivery and local availability require a fresh quote.

The sample illustrates unit comparison only. Different mulch materials and forms are not interchangeable solely because their prices can be divided by volume.

Observed product / model	Package	Displayed price
Vigoro brown wood mulch / 52050196	2 cu ft	$3.33 per bag
Earthgro brown wood mulch / 88659180	1.5 cu ft	$3.97 per bag

Keep useful material in the plan

Before removing edging, pavers, pots or sound fixtures, decide what can stay, be moved, be offered to a reuse organization or be recycled. EPA encourages early material recovery planning. Ask the receiving organization about condition, preparation and acceptance before promising a donation or booking transport. Keep a separate destination list for rejected or unsuitable material.

UF/IFAS describes organic mulch options, including fallen leaves, and explains that material choice and replenishment depend on the landscape. Use local advice to assess an existing layer; do not mix construction debris into landscape material.

Worksheet: bagged versus bulk

Bed sections / net area: _____ Added depth: _____

Calculated cubic feet: _____ Cubic yards: _____

Delivered order comparison

Item	Bagged quote	Bulk quote
Material / supplier / quote date		
Bag volume or bulk increment		
Quantity to purchase		
Material amount		
Confirmed delivery / other fees		
Quoted tax / installation if separate		
Known total / unknown charges		
Delivery location and timing		

Worksheet: keep, reuse or remove

- Confirm the destination accepts the specific material before arranging transport.
- Photograph reusable items and record dimensions without claiming an unknown condition.
- Ask a qualified contractor about suspect materials rather than treating them as ordinary reuse stock.

Material destination record

Material / quantity	Decision / destination	Confirmed date

Sources and edition

Primary references checked 2026-11-28. Worksheet prompts and examples are original editorial resources. Recheck live official records and quoted prices for your project.

Iowa State Extension: mulch quantities
https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/how-determine-amount-mulch-needed-garden-bed

UF/IFAS: choosing and installing mulches
https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/mulch/

EPA: construction material reuse
https://www.epa.gov/smm/best-practices-reducing-reusing-and-recycling-construction-and-demolition-materials

The Home Depot: mulch listings
https://www.homedepot.com/b/Outdoors-Garden-Center-Landscaping-Supplies-Mulch/N-5yc1vZbx4a