Estimating standard drywall material and labor:

To find the square footage for drywall board you can measure lineal feet of all the walls to have standard drywall installed and times it by the wall height. Take this square footage number and add 10% to 15% for waste, This will give an accurate amount for the total sq. ft. drywall of sheetrock necessary.

Most drywall contractors will order the material in 12 foot lengths. The theory is that the sheet is small enough for two installers to handle and will result in less butt joints to tape if the sheets were 8 feet.

What number would you divide into the total area sq. ft. to give the number of?

4’ X 12’ sheets ___________ 4’ X 8’ sheets ___________

List the other materials would you need to consider for a complete material estimate?

_________________________________ _________________________________
_________________________________ _________________________________
_________________________________ _________________________________

Areas that are specified as a special drywall material will need to be calculated separately. Some examples could be green water resistant board, fire X rated board and high density ceiling board.

List the different labor jobs related to drywall interior finish.

_________________________________ _________________________________
_________________________________ _________________________________
_________________________________ _________________________________

Where would you get information necessary to place a dollar amount for the above labor?
Contracted Job Estimation:

Drywall contractors will generally bid a job complete (labor and material) to a specified finish. This quote is a complete finish price per square foot, of drywall installed including all labor and material. This information is beneficial for estimating purposes. The estimator would need only to determine the square footage of drywall necessary for the job and times it by the quoted finish square foot cost.

Estimating drywall sq. ft. Short Cut:

A short method used in estimating the total drywall finish product cost is based on the house floor area. House floor area square feet is available on the house plans and is used a lot in estimating different categories. The house floor area square feet is multiplied by a factor. For a standard 8-foot ceiling (no vaults) house use (3.4 times the floor area sq. ft.) This will give the estimated square feet of drywall surface area. The sq. ft. surface area times the current quoted finished price per sq. ft. will give a relatively accurate drywall total estimate.

Houses with higher ceilings or vaults etc. would need the factor adjusted up accordingly. Remember that the finish price per square foot will be different in various situations. Example: A small one room addition you should expect the sq. ft. price to be higher. It is a good idea to get a current quote each job you bid.

Measuring the lineal footage of all the walls in a house takes a lot time and there is the possibility of measuring or calculation errors. If done carefully this is the most accurate method of finding the drywall surface square feet for a project.

Use the short cut method and see how quickly you can get the estimated cost for a 3500 floor area sq. ft. house using a factor of 3.4 and a quoted at finished price of $ .60 cents per sq. ft. finish product $ _____________