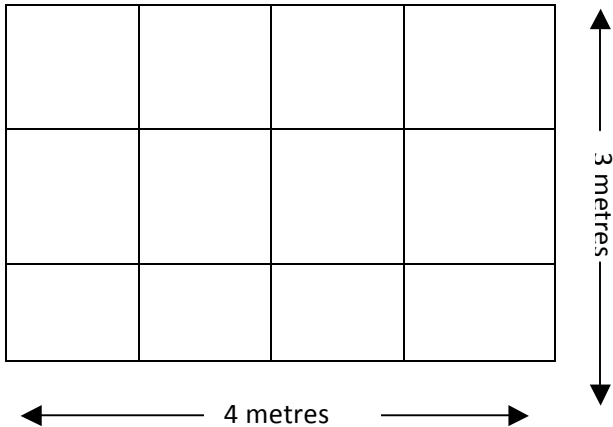


## Measuring area in construction

Measurement is essential for accuracy in construction. Measurement of area is used daily to assess the amount of material needed to complete a job.

To find out how much material it will take to cover a surface such as a floor or a wall, you need to calculate its surface **area**. Area is measured in square units - **m<sup>2</sup>** means **square metres**.

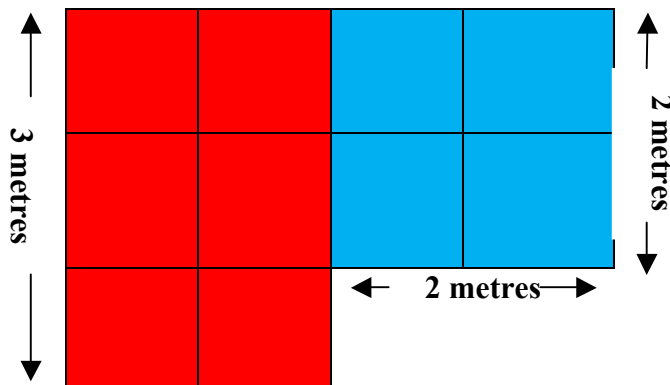


### To calculate the area of a rectangular floor

- Measure the length.
- Measure the width of the floor.
- Multiply the length by the width ( $l \times w$ ).

This floor has an area of  
 $4 \text{ metres} \times 3 \text{ metres} = 12\text{m}^2$ .

If you are measuring an irregularly shaped wall, you may need to do more than one calculation.



### To calculate the area of an irregular floor

- Break it into rectangles.
- Measure the red area ( $3 \times 2 = 6 \text{ m}^2$ ).
- Measure the blue area ( $2 \times 2 = 4 \text{ m}^2$ ).
- Add the two areas together  
 $6 \text{ m}^2 + 4 \text{ m}^2 = 10 \text{ m}^2$ .