



Understanding ratio

Ratio is a way of **comparing amounts** of something. It shows how much **bigger** one thing is than another. For example:

- use 1 measure of screen wash to 10 measures of water
- use 1 shovel of cement to 3 shovels of sand
- use 3 parts of blue paint to 1 part of white paint

Ratio is the number of **parts** to a mix. For example, the paint mix is 4 parts, with 3 parts blue and 1 part white.

The **order** in which a ratio is stated is important. For example, the ratio of screen wash to water is **1:10**. This means that for every 1 measure of screen wash there are 10 measures of water.

Mixing paint in the ratio 3:1 (3 parts blue paint to 1 part white paint) means **3 + 1 = 4 parts in all**.



3 parts blue paint to 1 part white paint = $\frac{3}{4}$ blue paint to $\frac{1}{4}$ white paint.

If the mix is in the **right proportions** we can say that it is in the **correct ratio**.