



## Area of rectangles: counting squares

**Area is the space on a flat surface and measured in square units.**

There are many practical reasons for calculating the area of a flat surface.

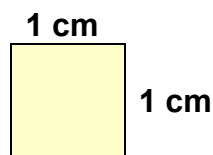
If you want to buy carpet or ceiling tiles for a room, the **floor area** can be calculated so the correct number of tiles can be ordered.

The unit of measurement for areas is called **square units**. If you use metres to make your measurement, the area will be measured in **square metres** ( $m^2$ ). If centimetres are used, the area will be in **square centimetres** ( $cm^2$ ).

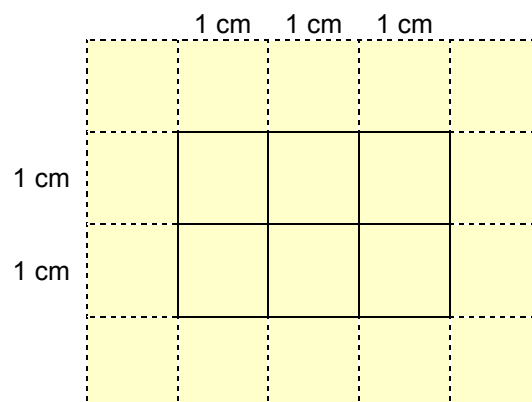
The area of a rectangle can be calculated by counting squares.

### Area by counting squares

This square measures 1 cm long and 1 cm wide. It is 1 square centimetre ( $cm^2$ ).



A rectangle drawn on the 1  $cm^2$  paper below is 3 cm long and 2 cm wide.



Count the number of 1 cm squares. There are 6 squares. So the area of the rectangle is **6  $cm^2$** .