



ESTIMATING COST OF COATING MATERIALS

Very often the price of paint is judged merely by its selling price. However, the actual cost incurred could be quite different than money paid per square meter, that determine the real cost.

To arrive at the square meter cost, we must first of all know the covering capacity per litre. Factors to consider are:

- i) dry film thickness (DFT) recommended
- ii) solid contents by volume

So the equation for calculating theoretical covering capacity is:

$$\frac{\% \text{ solids by volume} \times 10}{\text{DFT (microns)}} = \text{M}^2 / \text{litre}$$

Once we determine the coverage, the next step is to get cost per meter square, for which we use the following equation.

$$\frac{\text{Price per litre}}{\text{theoretical covering capacity}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\text{Price per litre} \times \text{DFT (microns)}}{\% \text{solid volume} \times 10}$$

NOTE: For converting theoretical in practical coverage the following should be the approximate percentage wise deduction used in our calculation depending upon method of application.

- i) brush 10% - 15%
- ii) roller 20% - 30%
- iii) spray 30% - 60%

In above, taken into account factors such as wastage, spillage, substrate roughness, skill of painters etc. Always spot priming should be done before, any major rust or corrosion appears. It will cut down the cost of surface preparation considerably, if done regularly. When more than 15% of the substrate needs repair, it is more economical to repaint.

