

How To Measure The Hall, Stairs, And Landing For Flooring

A detailed guide to measuring tricky hall, stairs, and landing areas for carpet or flooring, including separate sections, stair counts, waste allowance, and why these jobs should never be estimated as one simple rectangle.

Source <https://tapemeasures.org/blog/how-to-measure-hall-stairs-and-landing-for-flooring/>

How To Measure The Hall, Stairs, And Landing For Flooring

Hall, stairs, and landing measurements intimidate people for a reason. Unlike a bedroom or square living room, this area is rarely one clean rectangle. It is usually a chain of connected spaces with turns, doors, awkward corners, and stairs that create both horizontal and vertical measuring problems.

That is why this part of the house should never be measured by guesswork or by standing in the hallway and deciding that it "looks about the same" as another room.

The best measuring mindset

Do not try to measure the whole area as one shape.

Measure it as a series of connected sections:

- hall
- landing
- each stair element
- any turns or winders
- closets or alcoves if they will be covered too

This is the simplest way to reduce mistakes.

What tape measure should you use?

Use a pocket tape measure for this job. A soft tape is too awkward for long straight hallway runs and stair geometry.

If possible, use a lockable tape with a clear metric scale. You will probably be moving between floor widths, stair depths, and vertical risers, so clean note-taking matters.

Step 1: Measure the hall separately

Measure the main hallway as its own area:

- width
- length

If the hallway narrows, turns, or opens into side zones, split those into separate rectangles rather than pretending the full space is uniform.

Step 2: Measure the landing separately

The landing also gets its own measurement set:

- maximum length
- maximum width

If the landing includes door recesses, balustrade interruptions, or awkward shapes, sketch the shape roughly and break it into smaller measurable parts.

Step 3: Measure the stairs

Stairs are where many flooring estimates go wrong because people count only the visible step surface.

You usually need to measure:

- the tread depth of each stair
- the riser height of each stair
- the stair width
- the number of stairs

For straight stairs, a common workflow is:

- 1.measure one tread depth
- 2.measure one riser height
- 3.add them together
- 4.multiply by the number of stairs
- 5.combine with the stair width to estimate total material

If the stairs vary in shape or include winders, measure each unusual step separately.

Step 4: Check for nosing and wraps

Some flooring installations wrap differently around the stair nose, and some carpet fits need additional allowance for the front edge of each step.

That means the measurement needed for the install can be slightly more than just a clean tread-plus-riser math line. If the installer or supplier uses a specific fitting method, measure with

that in mind rather than assuming every stair is a flat L-shape only.

Step 5: Account for awkward sections

Hall, stairs, and landing areas often include:

- radiator pipe cutouts
- under-stair corners
- angled walls
- door bars and thresholds
- winding or pie-shaped steps

Do not leave these to memory. Write them down as separate notes. The job becomes manageable when every awkward piece is treated as a smaller measuring problem.

Why waste allowance matters more here than in square rooms

Rectangular rooms are relatively efficient for flooring and carpet planning. Hall, stairs, and landing areas are not.

You often need extra material for:

- turns
- pattern alignment
- step fitting
- awkward cuts
- offcuts that cannot be reused efficiently

So even if the raw area math looks modest, the real order quantity often needs more breathing room than a simple room measurement would.

A practical note-taking method

A good way to measure this area is to draw a rough sketch and label each section:

- Hall A
- Landing B
- Stair flight C
- Winder D

Then write each width and length directly onto the sketch. This reduces the chance of mixing up which number belongs to which zone later when you are speaking to a supplier or ordering online.

Common mistakes

1.Measuring only the floor plane

With stairs, the vertical riser matters just as much as the horizontal tread.

2.Treating the whole zone as one rectangle

That usually creates either under-ordering or messy assumptions.

3.Forgetting awkward edges and winders

Special shapes usually increase waste and fitting complexity.

4.Writing numbers down without labels

Hall, stairs, and landing jobs often fail at the note stage, not the measuring stage.

Bottom line

To measure hall, stairs, and landing areas for flooring, break the job into separate parts and record each one clearly. Measure hall and landing zones independently, then measure tread depth, riser height, width, and stair count for the stairs. The less you rely on one big guess, the more accurate and stress-free the flooring order becomes.