How to Measure a Roof for Sketch

There are several traditional methods used to measure surface areas for a roofing estimate. Xactimate helps to streamline the process of measuring roofs by handling much of the complex geometry for you. Understanding which measurements Xactimate requires will help you to reduce the amount of time spent measuring a roof structure and increase the accuracy of your roof diagram in Sketch. When measuring a roof structure that you plan to diagram in Sketch, it is helpful to remember the six-step process below.

**Step 1  Measure the Building Perimeter**

Measure and note the perimeter measurements of the building to create an outline/footprint of the building. (This may not be necessary for all roofs but is very helpful for more complex roof designs with multiple tie-ins and roof types.)

**Step 2  Measure the Eave and Rake Overhangs**

Be sure to verify each eave and rake overhang. Eave and rake overhangs should be measured from the exterior edge of the fascia to the exterior edge of the wall. Xactimate will require these measurements for each roof section of roof. In many cases eave and rake measurements will be uniform throughout the entire roof but may vary so it is a good practice to check each roof section.
Step 3  Measure Each Roof Face

Xactimate accepts the following roof face measurement types: Rafter Length, Ridge, Roof Span, and Slope.

In situations where a roof section is non-symmetrical (meaning the slopes/rafter lengths are different on each side) Rafter Lengths will need to be measured in order for Xactimate to calculate the correct roof slope and surface areas.

Step 4  Determine Roof Shape and Ridge Direction

Determine which Sketch roofing shape applies to each roof section: Gable, Flat/Shed, Hip, Partial Hip, Dutch Hip, Gambrel, Barrel, Turret, and Dormer. Also, note the ridge direction and approximate ridge location.
Step 5  Measure Eave Height Variations

Measure any variations in eave height from that of the main roof elevation. This step is often overlooked but is critical in ensuring that Xactimate can correctly place each roof section. In addition, this measurement helps Xactimate determine the vertical placement of each eave and roof section.

Step 6  Take Digital Photos

When measuring a roof, it is helpful (in some cases required) to take digital photos to include with the Sketch. Digital photos are a good reference to use when Sketching a roof and provide additional detail to the roofing estimate. When taking digital photos, take photos of key building elevations and sections of roof which are in need of attention or repair.
How to Measure a Dormer for Sketch

When measuring the dimensions of a dormer, follow the six-step roof measuring process previously outlined plus three additional steps.

**Step 1  Measure the Dormer Eave Lengths**

Measure the length of each dormer eave. The eave length measurements should extend from the front dormer fascia to the point where the dormer ties into the roof slope. This measurement will be helpful when specifying the length of the dormer in Xactimate.

**Step 2  Measure Eave Heights from Roof Slope**

Measure the height of the dormer eaves. The measurement should be from the adjacent roof slope to the eave soffit, along the front dormer wall. This measurement will be helpful when specifying the height of the dormer in Xactimate.

**Step 3  Measure Width of Dormer**

Measure the width of the front dormer wall. The measurement should be the pulled from the left to the right side of the dormer front wall. This measurement will be helpful when specifying the width of the dormer in Xactimate.