

Fit Activity #1: Create a ½" Scale Drawing of a Room

A scale drawing, is “shrinking” the space and furniture proportionally onto a standard piece of paper. Mildly mind-blowing and possibly overwhelming I realize, but hang in here with me. The scale drawing is a tool that expands your creative and pragmatic mind. This might help: picture your round coffee table the size of a dime. Now move that dime around on a piece of paper. I will teach you how to draw a miniaturized room including little paper furniture cutouts to practice placing furniture in your space.

Why? Scale drawings of your space and furnishings are beneficial for four reasons:

1. Confirm furniture pieces actually fit—without physically moving them.
2. Better understand traffic patterns in the room. Any size, flow, or function problems are made clear and can be solved.
3. Develop an ability to visualize your dream space.
4. Full-scale drawing with furniture laid out will help communicate your plan when your moving buddies show up.

Do you envision a cozy reading nook? A scale drawing will help you find the perfect place for a quiet space to house reading materials, a chair, and an outlet for a lamp.



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Fit Activity

WHAT: Create a drawing that proportionally shrinks any room onto a piece of paper.

WHY: To use as a “fit tool.” Predetermine fit of furnishings and accessories according to your vision to eliminate multiple moves by humans.

HOW: Measure the length of the walls, making note of the location of doors, windows, closets, electrical outlets, and heating/cooling vents. Translate those measurements onto a sheet of paper.

TOOLS: Tape measure. Writing utensil (pencil and good eraser encouraged). Paper.
Ruler.

TASK:

- Measure the length of each wall, noting windows, location of vents, outlets, door location, and swing direction. See drawings on page 206.
- Convert each wall measurement to inches. A standard ruler scale conversion is one half-inch equals one foot. For example, a ten-by-ten-foot room translates to five-by-five inches on paper.

TIME: Thirty minutes per room.

Translating Feet to Inches

My brother is a double PhD in engineering. Math makes me curl up in a little ball. I panic and nearly cry when faced with simple math. I find converting feet to inches better done on an architectural ruler, a three-sided ruler purchased at an office supply or art store. This ruler will make scale drawing crystal clear. The arrows below indicate all the important measurements worth taking.

The architectural ruler does the mathematical work of translating a room to scale for you. One ruler has many scales. You will likely only use the half inch or quarter inch side of the architectural ruler. If you have a larger room (over sixteen by twenty feet) you'll use the quarter inch scale on the architectural ruler.

Fit Activity #1: Create a 1/2" Scale Drawing of a Room

The drawing doesn't have to be perfect, but do the best you can to take accurate measurements. Doing so will ensure the right sized furniture will fit properly in the space. A scale drawing of a room will look something like this:

