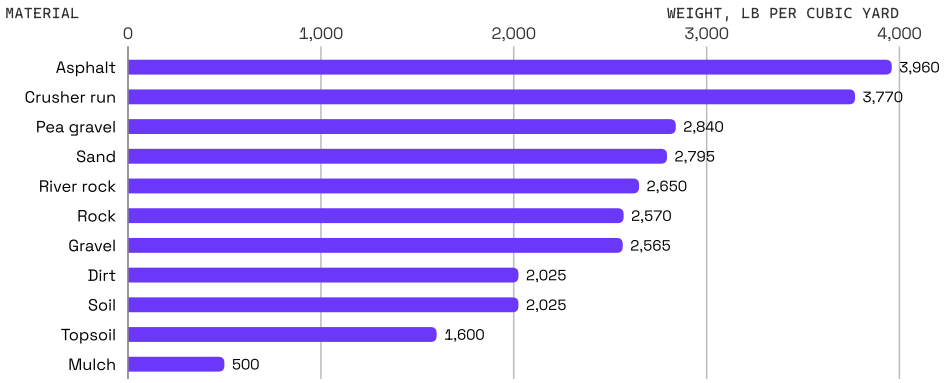
How many cubic yards are in a ton?

One ton is 0.51 to 4 cubic yards depending on the material: about 0.78 cubic yards of gravel, 0.99 cubic yards of dirt and 4 cubic yards of mulch. A ton here is a short ton of 2,000 lb, and each value is the published weight of a cubic yard of the material in the condition its document names: loose, compacted or not stated.

Weight per cubic foot and cubic yard with its condition in the document, tons per cubic yard, cubic yards per ton and the area one ton covers at 2 and 3 inches deep, by material, heaviest first; weights in different conditions are not comparable

MATERIAL	CONDITION	POUNDS PER CUBIC FOOT	POUNDS PER CUBIC YARD	ALL PUBLISHED VALUES, LB PER CUBIC YARD	TONS PER CUBIC YARD	CUBIC YARDS PER TON	1 TON COVERS AT 2 IN, SQ FT	1 TON COVERS AT 3 IN, SQ FT
Asphalt	compacted	146.7	3,960	3,096–4,320	1.98	0.51	82	55
Crusher run	compacted	139.6	3,770	2,500–3,960	1.89	0.53	86	57
Pea gravel	not stated	105.2	2,840	2,430–2,840	1.42	0.7	114	76
Sand	loose	103.5	2,795	2,430–3,510	1.4	0.72	116	77
River rock	not stated	98.1	2,650	2,430–2,700	1.33	0.75	122	82
Rock	loose	95.2	2,570	2,400–2,570	1.29	0.78	126	84
Gravel	loose	95	2,565	2,565–3,900	1.28	0.78	126	84
Dirt	dry, compaction not stated	75	2,025	1,890–2,392	1.01	0.99	160	107
Soil	dry, compaction not stated	75	2,025	2,025–2,392	1.01	0.99	160	107
Topsoil	not stated	59.3	1,600	1,600–2,392	0.8	1.25	203	135
Mulch	not stated	18.5	500	243–500	0.25	4	648	432



Weight of a cubic yard by material.

How to use the material weight chart

To turn tons into cubic yards, multiply the tons by the cubic yards per ton. To turn cubic yards into tons, multiply by the tons per cubic yard. The area columns show how far one ton spreads at 2 and 3 inches deep; base and paving layers are usually thicker (see each material's published depths). For another depth, multiply the cubic yards per ton

by 324 (the square feet one cubic yard covers at 1 inch) and divide by the depth in inches. A compacted weight gives compacted cubic yards: loose material for that layer takes more room.

The weight of the same material differs between suppliers, with moisture and with compaction, which is why the published values span a range. Each material's weight page lists every published value with its source; before ordering, ask the supplier for the weight per cubic yard of their material.

SOURCES

▶ 12 published documents, checked on 2026-11-13

Methodology. For planning only: density and coverage vary with the source, the moisture and compaction, so confirm the weight per yard with your supplier before ordering.