3-4-5 layout check sheet

SAMPLE · REPLACE ME

If one leg of a corner is 3 units, the other is 4, and the diagonal between those marks is 5, the corner is square. Use the largest triangle that still fits the work. On a rectangle, also check that the two overall diagonals are equal.

Legs	Diagonal	Typical use
3 ft x 4 ft	5 ft	Small boxes, cabinets, window openings
6 ft x 8 ft	10 ft	Interior walls, doors, most room layouts
9 ft x 12 ft	15 ft	Longer walls and exterior layout
12 ft x 16 ft	20 ft	Foundations, decks, and larger frames
30 cm x 40 cm	50 cm	Small metric layouts
60 cm x 80 cm	100 cm	General metric room layout

Field reminders

- Measure both legs from the same point, on the same faces (all inside, or all outside).
- If the diagonal is long, the angle is open (more than 90 degrees). If it is short, the angle is closed.
- For finish work, try to keep a 5 ft or 10 ft diagonal within about 1/16 in.
- Use one tape for the whole layout if two tapes disagree.
- On a rectangle, 3-4-5 squares a corner; equal overall diagonals confirm the frame.

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