

Additive Property of Area

This is a composite figure. It could be decomposed numerous ways, for example, into two rectangles, into a square and a rectangle, or into two trapezoids.

This illustrates the decomposition of the two-dimensional figure into two rectangles.

The dimensions of the blue rectangle are four and one-half inches by two and one-quarter inches.

We can apply the area formula for a rectangle to determine the area of the blue rectangle.

We can apply the area formula for a rectangle to determine the area of the red rectangle.

We combine the area of the two rectangles to determine the area of the larger two-dimensional figure.