

Both package weight and dimensions can affect your shipping costs

Choosing the right-sized box can save you money

Have you ever wondered why shipping a large package with light items costs more than shipping a small package with heavier items? That's because even though weight is a big factor in determining shipping costs, the other important factor is a package's dimensions (length, width, height and girth).

All shipping carriers calculate a package's shipping cost through a dimensional (DIM) weight formula that takes into account a package's weight and dimensions. Understanding how carriers measure dimensional weight and choosing the right-sized box can save you money.



Why are package dimensions important?

Dimensions matter to carriers because larger packages cost more to ship due to the greater amount of space they take to transport.



Example: A box of pillows weigh less than a box of shoes, but take up more space on the delivery truck. It costs more to ship pillows because of their package's larger dimensions.

How to calculate dimensional (DIM) weight in 3 easy steps

Determine cubic inches

$L \times H \times W = \text{cubic inches}$

$18'' \times 14'' \times 12'' = 3024 \text{ cubic inches}$

[Learn more](#) about each carrier's measurement guides



Divide cubic inches by the DIM divisor

Although often identical (see table below), each carrier determines its own DIM weight divisor. Also note that UPS and USPS only bill on DIM weight when a package's dimensions exceed 1 cubic foot.

DIM Divisor	Domestic	International
USPS®	166	139
UPS®	166	—
FedEx®	166	—

$3024 \div 166 = 18.21$ (Round up your answer)

DIM weight is 19 lbs

Determine the shipping rate

Your billable shipping rate is based on whichever is higher, actual weight or DIM weight.

Actual weight = 11 lbs

DIM weight = 19 lbs

In this example, the billable rate is 19 lbs.

Let eBay's Shipping Calculator do the math for you

eBay's Shipping Calculator tool will determine billable shipping costs and factor in DIM weight if it applies to your package. Simply round up your package weight and dimensions to the nearest whole number and enter the results in the required fields.

[Estimate shipping costs →](#)

For more tips and tools on shipping, visit us at:

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