

What is Dimensional Weight? Does it Affect your Shipping Cost?

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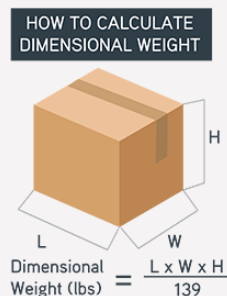
Who is this document for?

Packaging Engineers
Shipping/Receiving Managers
Logistics Managers
Procurement/Purchasing
Anyone that wants to know how parcel shipments are calculated and wants to save money on shipping.

What is the goal of this document?

The goal of this one-pager is to educate.

More specifically, it's intended to describe, calculate, and consider all things related to dimensional weight.



The dim. weigh formula above is to be used for FedEx **ONLY**.

Key Takeaway:

This guide is not a "one size fits all". Companies pack out different commodities, items, medications, specimens, and all sorts of product lines. Within those product lines there can be different SKUs, all of which can impact shipping costs.

Bear in mind that most carriers have different dimensional weight requirements, if you don't calculate your company's billable/dimensional weight, your package may be refused or get an over maximum limits charge. **Calculate your dim. weight here.**

What is dimensional weight?

The bulk of our customer base participates in the meal-kit and the biopharmaceutical industry. Our customers' customers are everyday people that receive shipments to their homes. The type of transportation method that is used from distribution centers (DCs) to the end consumer is called final-mile.

Final-mile packages are mostly considered parcel shipments. Package delivery or parcel delivery is the delivery of high-value mail as single shipments, such as meal-delivery kits, compound medication, monthly box subscription services, wine-club disbursements, etc. Heck, even popular online food ordering such as DoorDash, Postmates, UberEats, are doing cross-country parcel deliveries now. Common parcel carriers are USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL, among others.

Dimensional weight (dim. weight) at its core is a pricing technique used for commercial transport. Dim. weight is calculated by using the length, width, and height of a package. The shipping fee is based upon the dimensional weight or the actual weight, whichever is greater.

In other words, dim. weight is the amount of space a package occupies in relation to its actual weight. The larger of the two weights is the billable weight and should be used to calculate the rate.

Most times DCs or e-commerce folks add the extra paper filling, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, or other wadding materials. While these materials are used to insulate, cushion, protect they also add cost and weight and are at times sources from different suppliers.

ColdShip's thermal packaging liners also insulate, cushion, protect, and most times for equal or less the cost. Our lightweight designs and flexible structures allow you to stow almost anything in the boxes.

For more information on dimensional weight please check out [FedEx](#) and [UPS](#) online resources. (active links provided in this document)