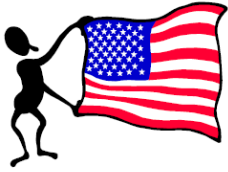




## Imperial or Metric?

There are two different systems of weights and measures: imperial (inches) and metric (centimetres).



Americans use **the imperial system**. They measure in inches and feet.



Canadians use **the metric system**. We measure in centimetres and metres. Canada used to use the imperial system. We changed to the metric system in the 1970s.

For whatever reason, a lot of construction and landscape work in Canada is still done using the imperial system. Wood is sold by the foot. Screws are measured in inches. Soil is sold by the yard. Area is calculated by the square foot. Bricks, pavers, gravel, and stone are still sold by the load, measured by weight, most often in tons or pounds. Imperial measurement is still widely used. For this reason, this unit will focus on imperial measurements.

## Inches and Feet

The imperial system is based on inches, feet, yards, and miles. The two symbols used in imperial measurement are the ' (apostrophe) and the " (quotation mark).

5' ¾" means five feet and three-quarter inches. 5 ¾" means 5 and ¾ inches.

Sometimes measurements are only written in inches. 5' ¾" can be written as:

60 ¾" or **60- and three-quarter inches**.

To find the total number of inches, we multiply the number of feet by 12, because there are 12 inches in a foot.

$$1' = 12" (1 \times 12 = 12)$$

$$2' = 24" (2 \times 12 = 24)$$

$$3' = 36" (3 \times 12 = 36)$$

