

How postage is calculated

A guide to parcel sending within Australia

By understanding how postage is calculated you'll be able to enter the correct information for your parcels, so you'll only pay for what you send and your parcels will move through the network as efficiently as possible.

Your postage costs will be calculated based on the following:

1. Origin and destination

Determine where your parcel is being sent from and going to.

2. Packaging type

• Australia Post flat rate packaging†

If you send 5kg or under in Australia using flat rate packaging, your postage is calculated based on the packaging size. There are four sizes to choose from - small, medium, large or extra large.

• Own packaging (This includes all packaging not part of the Australia Post flat rate range).

We use a parcel's weight and its dimensions to determine how much space it will take up in our vehicles. That means, postage is calculated based on the parcel's physical or cubic weight, whichever is greater. By entering your parcel's physical weight and dimensions in your preferred online sending platform, the **chargeable weight** will be calculated for you.[§]

See below for more detailed information on how chargeable weight is calculated.

1. Delivery speed and extras

Choose a parcel service like regular Parcel Post or Express Post.

Select any extras including cover for loss or damage, or signature on delivery.

How chargeable weight is calculated

1. Your packaging needs to be weighed (including the packaging) to find the **physical weight**.
2. Next, the parcel's cubic volume is calculated by measuring the length (L) x width (W) x height (H) in metres. When measuring odd shaped articles such as satchels, measure the maximum points.
3. The **cubic weight** is calculated by multiplying the parcel's cubic volume by the cubic weight conversion factor of 250.
The cubic weight accounts for the space your parcel will take up in our vehicles.
4. The **chargeable weight** is the greater of the physical weight or the cubic weight of your parcel.

Domestic parcel size and weight[#]

Maximum physical weight 22kg

Maximum length 105cm

Maximum cubic volume 0.25 cubic metres

Here is an example:



The parcel has a **physical weight** of 10kg.



The parcel's dimensions are required to calculate the cubic volume.

50.5cm (L) x 40.3cm (W) x 30.9cm (H)

Cubic volume

= 0.505 x 0.403 x 0.309

= 0.062m³



The parcel's cubic volume is then used to calculate the cubic weight.

Cubic weight

= 0.062 x 250

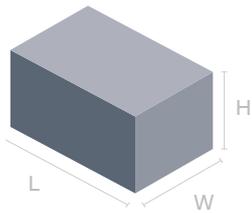
= 15.72kg



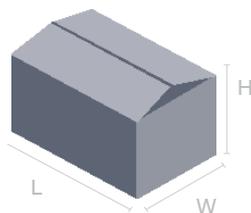
Chargeable weight = 15.72kgs

As the physical weight of the parcel is 10kg but the cubic weight is 15.72kg, we'll charge the cubic weight because it's greater.

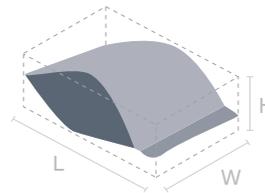
Box



Irregular shape



Satchels



Tube



Tips on avoiding underpaid postage

Ensure you correctly measure the external dimensions of the parcel

The dimensions printed on the outside of the packaging are often the internal dimensions. To find the accurate external dimensions, we recommend you use a tape measure or ruler to measure your parcel and scales to weigh your item.

Ensure the contents fit properly inside your packaging

If the contents are straining the dimension, this may impact the cubic volume of your parcel. As we measure at the largest point, any part protruding will be measured. Make sure to secure loose ends, ribbons, and flaps to avoid our machines detecting a larger size.

Ensure parcel weighs less than 5kgs if using Aus Post flat rate packaging

Our scanners will detect any items over 5kgs and calculate the difference in postage. You'll also need to make sure you accurately select the size of the packaging (small, medium, large or extra large) you are using.

[†] You don't need to cube your parcel when sending an item 5kg or under within Australia in our flat rate packaging.

[§] The chargeable weight of the parcel is based on its physical weight or cubic weight equivalent, whichever is greater. A large or irregularly shaped parcel may have a greater cubic weight than its physical weight.

[#] Some domestic parcel services have specific size and weight restrictions. Please check the service for more details before lodging your article. If your item is outside the allowed maximum size and weight restrictions the item may be refused.



Australia Post