

METRICATION FOR THE CONSUMER AND IN THE HOME

- Mere package size (when determining the best buy) can be deceptive. Read and compare the labeled quantities in relation to price. You will find that, because the metric system easily relates to our decimal money system, that bargains will be easier to spot. For example, it is easy to find the price, per gram, of a package that has 500 grams for 50 cents versus the inch-pound approximate equivalent of 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces for 50 cents.
- Shopping is much easier when you become accustomed to metric units because the metric system doesn't have the bewildering different types of units used in the inch-pound system where you have (for example) fluid measures expressed in gallons, liquid quarts, pints, half-pints, and fluid ounces; and have dry measures in pecks, dry quarts, and pints, where the inch-pound system dry quart is larger than the fluid quart.

In contrast, SI has only one unit for liquid volume: the liter, or some decimal fraction or multiple of the liter. You'll buy meat, candy, etc., in kilograms or grams; rugs and fabrics by the square meter; and will buy clothing and will state body measurements in centimeters.

- There is no need to discard your inch-pound measuring implements and recipes. Just continue to use them as you have in the past. However, when you get a recipe based on SI metric units, the following table of equivalents will be useful.

Units	teaspoons	tablespoons	milliliters	liters
1 teaspoon equals	1	1/3	5	not applicable
1 tablespoon equals	3	1	15	" "
1 fluid ounce equals	6	2	30	" "
1 inch-pound cupful equals	48	16	240	approx 0.24
1 liquid pint equals	not applicable	not applicable	approx 470	approx 0.47
1 liquid quart equals	" "	" "	approx 950	approx 0.95
1 milliliter equals	1/5	1/15	1	1/1000
1 liter equals	not applicable	not applicable	1000	1
1 liter = 1.06 liquid quart	1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds		1 gram = 1/28 dry ounce	
1 pound = 454 grams	1 dry ounce = 28.4 grams			

The handyman won't have to replace tools like saws, hammers, chisels, and pipe wrenches, but will need to purchase measuring tools if working on tasks that require metric units. When purchasing paint brushes, they will be sized in centimeters instead of inches, and paint will be sold in liter sizes. Bulk materials such as plaster and small quantities of cement will be sold by the kilogram, and fluid products such as roofing compound will be packaged in liters. Panes of glass will be sold by the square meter.

Gardening chores won't change, but seeds, fertilizer and other items now sold by the pound will be packaged in grams and kilograms. Liquid insecticides and other gardening liquids will be sold in liters and milliliters. Estimating the amount of fertilizer your lawn needs will involve calculating the number of grams or kilograms of fertilizer per square meter of lawn.