



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.

Follow these 4 easy steps

Step 1: Origin and destination

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

Step 2: Packaging type

- **Australia Post flat rate packaging†**
Postage is calculated based on the packaging size. There are four sizes to choose from: Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large with a maximum weight of 5kg.
- **Own packaging** (This includes all packaging not part of the Australia Post flat rate range).
Postage is calculated based on the parcel's physical or cubic weight equivalent, 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.

Step 3: Delivery speed and extras

Choose a parcel service like regular Parcel Post or Express Post.
Extras can include cover for loss or damage, or signature on delivery.

Step 4: Final postage calculation

Your postage costs will be calculated based on the steps above.

How chargeable weight is calculated

- 1 Your parcel 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.
- 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.

Tip: Avoid packaging with loose straps, flaps, strings or handles as this may impact the cubic assessment of your parcel when processed on our automatic sorting machines.

Here is an example:



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



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

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cubic volume} &= 0.5\text{m (L)} \times 0.4\text{m (W)} \times 0.3\text{m (H)} \\ &= 0.06\text{m}^3\end{aligned}$$



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

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cubic weight} &= 0.06 \times 250 \\ &= 15\text{kg}\end{aligned}$$



Chargeable weight = 15kgs

As the physical weight of the parcel is 10kg but the cubic weight is 15kg, we'll charge the cubic weight because it's greater.

Maximum domestic parcel size and weight[#]

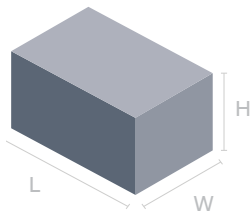
Maximum physical weight
22kg

Maximum length
105cm

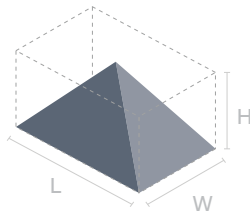
Maximum cubic volume
0.25 cubic metres

When measuring odd shaped articles such as satchels, measure the maximum points.

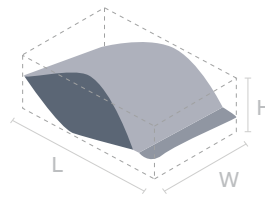
Box



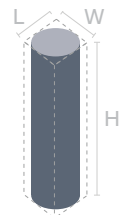
Irregular shape



Satchels



Tube



Note: The dimensions on the outside of your packaging or published dimensions, are often internal dimensions. When sending with Australia Post, outside If It Packs, It Posts, flat rate packaging your postage is calculated on your item's packed weight and external dimensions. To find the accurate external dimensions of your item, we recommend you use a ruler or tape measure to measure your parcels and scales to weigh your item.

† You don't need to cube your parcel when using Australia Post If It Packs, It Posts packaging with a physical weight of 5kg or under.

§ 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.