

So if the metric system is better, and it is the official system of measurement in Canada, why do we still use the imperial system for some measurements (feet, inches, pounds, ounces, ...). Unfortunately, the US is like Canada's "big sister" – a lot of our media (tv, movies) is created in the US, and many of the products we purchase are either manufactured by the US or sold to the US. This makes Canada unique in that we **unofficially** use BOTH systems of measurement.

### Why Does This Matter to an Applied Math 30S Student?

The result of this measurement system confusion is that you have to be familiar with common units from BOTH systems – metric and imperial. However, any question that you work on will use units from one system or the other: **You will never have to convert metric units to imperial units** (or vice versa). For example, you will not be asked to convert feet to metres.

Review the following conversion factors with your teacher. You may want to include the conversion measures on your test resource sheet. (Use the 'short form' of the conversion to save space.)

Length (Distance) Conversion Factors	
Metric	Imperial
1 centimetre = 10 millimetres (1 cm = 10 mm)	1 foot = 12 inches (1 ft = 12 in) (1' = 12")
1 metre = 100 centimetres (1 m = 100 cm)	1 yard = 3 feet (1 yd = 3 ft)
1 kilometre = 1000 metres (1 km = 1000 m)	1 mile = 5280 feet (1 mi = 5280 ft)
	1 mile = 1760 yards (1 mi = 1760 yd)

Weight Conversion Factors	
Metric	Imperial
1 gram = 1000 milligrams (1 g = 1000 mg)	1 pound = 16 ounces (1 lb = 16 oz)
1 kilogram = 1000 grams (1 kg = 1000 g)	

Time Conversion Factors
1 minute = 60 seconds (1 min = 60 sec)
1 hour = 60 minutes (1 h = 60 min)
1 day = 24 hours (1 d = 24 h)
1 week = 7 days
1 year = 12 months, 1 year = 52 weeks, 1 year = 365 days