

Metric Reference Points Worksheet

Sometimes, people will be reluctant to start using metric measures because they are already familiar with so many measures in an old system. The solution is to convert the old measures into metric, and to then get accustomed to the new numbers.

How much is a meter?

A meter is about the distance between the floor and a doorknob. For the following measurements, first try to estimate the number and then either measure it or calculate it to find the actual value. The table will mix measurements in millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers. You should eventually be comfortable switching between them, and should be able to visualize the lengths from the number.

cm = 2.54 * inches mm = 25.4 * inches m = 3.28 * feet km = 1.6 * miles

Computer monitor (length of the diagonal)		cm
Height of the ceiling		m
My height		cm
The margins of this page		mm
The dimensions of this paper	mm by	mm
The dimensions of my house or apt. complex	m by	m
The size of the lot on which the house sits	m by	m
The biggest snowfall I can remember		cm
Distance to the grocery store		m
Distance to the grocery store		km
Distance to work or school		km

How much are a square meter and a hectare?

A hectare (ha) is the area of a square 100 m on a side, so it is 10,000 m².

Area of the cover of a book		m ²
Area of the tabletop		m ²
Area of this room		m ²
Area of my house or apartment (floor space)		m ²
Area of the lot on which the house sits		m ²
Area of the lot on which the house sits		ha