

Your Packing Checklist to Decrease DIM Weight

Like most parcel shippers, you're probably on the lookout to cut costs. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by decreasing the dimensional weight (known as DIM weight) of your **small packages**. Fortunately, it's not too difficult if you follow a couple of best practices.

What is dimensional weight exactly?

DIM weight refers to how dense a package is — or the amount of space a package occupies relative to its actual weight. Imagine a 1,000-gallon, plastic water tank. It's probably not that heavy since it's hollow. But it will take up quite a bit of space for its weight. That's important to understand since the billable weight of your package will be the greater of the DIM weight or the actual weight.

Three tips to decrease DIM weight



Standard or custom packaging – Be sure your shipments fit snugly in their packaging. This will prevent damage and decrease DIM weight since there is less empty space. When standard boxes and packaging do not properly fit your product, you can invest in custom packaging — a wise investment if you are consistently sending the same size shipments.



Use mailers instead of boxes – **Mailers are good alternatives** to large boxes since there is much less space to fill — therefore less wasted space. You can select mailer boxes for larger shipments or mailer envelopes for smaller ones. Both offer you the opportunity to pad and protect if the shipment is fragile.



Select appropriate fillers – If your boxes or packaging does have empty space, fillers are a great option to prevent damage. However, the filler you use can have an impact on the dimensional weight. While foam, packing paper and other materials can be stuffed into boxes, it's **important to know which filler is appropriate** for which shipment.

How to calculate DIM weight

Use any standard scale to **determine the actual weight** of your package.



Calculate DIM weight:

In pounds, divide the cubic size of your package in inches (the product of multiplying your package's length x width x height) by 139. Round up any fraction to the next whole pound.

In kilograms, divide the cubic size of your package in centimeters by 5,000. Round up fractions to the next whole kilogram.



Compare each package's actual weight to its DIM weight. The larger of the two weights is the **billable weight** and should be used to calculate the shipping rate.

Let us help you take a load off

There are a lot of moving parts involved in shipping your products. But considering all the steps along the way can help streamline processes and save you money. That includes correctly calculating DIM weight and keeping it as low as possible.

As a leading **third-party logistics (3PL) provider** and part of the largest non-retail UPS® Authorized Reseller in the U.S., Worldwide Express can provide you with the expertise you need to efficiently navigate parcel shipping.

Ready to talk to an expert about
DIM best practices and optimizing
your packaging strategy?



**Reach out today for
a consultation.**