

## Getting What You Pay For

It's hard to be a smart consumer today. You think about the products you buy and the amount you can spend. Can I afford this? Is this the best buy? Am I getting my money's worth?



Almost everything we buy is sold by weight, volume, length, count, or measure. Think of examples -- a dozen eggs, a gallon of milk, a liter of wine, a yard of cloth, a pound of hamburger, a cord of firewood.

Without standard measurements, it would be difficult to do even simple things like use cookbooks or buy carpeting, laundry detergent, and fabric.

### Keeping the Market in Balance

You don't carry a scale or measuring tape with you to check the **weight** or **measure** of everything you buy. How do you know you're getting what you pay for?

For hundreds of years your local **weights** and **measures** officials have been working behind the scenes to protect consumers, businesses, and manufacturers from unfair practices.

**Weights** and **measures** officials work in agriculture departments, consumer protection offices, and other state and local government agencies.

These men and women use highly accurate equipment to inspect scales, meters, scanning equipment and packaged products at supermarkets. They also inspect weighing and measuring equipment and packages at warehouses, packing plants, feed mills, shipping companies, lumber yards, and gasoline stations. They act as a third party to help maintain fairness and keep the marketplace in balance.

Each state has a metrology laboratory which has a set of standard weights and measures. These are used to check the accuracy of the equipment used by weights and measures officials and industry.

### Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

***Consumers have rights and responsibilities in the marketplace! This site offers you, the consumer, important ideas on how to use weights and measures information. By knowing what to do, you too, can help the market work at its best.***