

# Unusual Systems of Measurement

## Apothecary System

The apothecary system originated in Greece, but eventually it made its way to England where it was used during the late 1600s. As you might have already guessed, the colonists brought the apothecary system to America where the system evolved and became a modified system of trading measurements. This system is being replaced by the metric system.

### grain (gr)

one grain = 65 milligrams

history: the mass of a single seed of wheat or barley

sample usage: 5 grain aspirin (325 gram)

### fluid dram (fl dr)

one dram = 3.7 mL (1/8 of a fluid ounce)

### minims (drops), (gtts)

60 minims = 1 fl dr

### dram (dr.)

one dram = 3.89 grams (1/8 of an ounce = 60 grains)

history: once called drachma

## Avoirdupois System for Mass (weight)

1 pound = 16 ounces = 256 drams = 453.59 grams

1 ounce = 16 drams = 437.5 grains = 28.35 grams

1 dram = 27.34375 grains = 1.772 grams

1 grain = 0.0648 grams = 64.8 mg (65 mg)

There are some differences between the apothecary and avoirdupois systems:

1 pound (Av)	453.592 g
1 pound (Ap)	373.242 g
1 ounce (Av)	28.35 g
1 ounce (Ap)	31.10 g, 480 grains
5 grains	300 mg
1 grain	64.79891 mg
1 pound	0.45 kg
1 gal	3785 mL, 4 quarts
1 pt	473.18 mL
1 fl oz	29.57 mL
1 cc	1 gm, 1 mL
1 minim	1 drop, 0.0616 mL
1 tsp	5 mL

Ap = Apothecary	mg = milligram
Av = Avoirdupois	g = gram
mcg = microgram	kg = kilogram
gal = gallon	mL = milliliter
fl oz = fluid ounce	qt = quart
gr = grain	gtts = drops
L = liter	st = stone
ft = foot	oz = ounce
in = inch	pt = pint
yd = yard	lb = pound
mi = mile	cc = cubic centimeters
m = meter	dr = drachm = drachma = dram