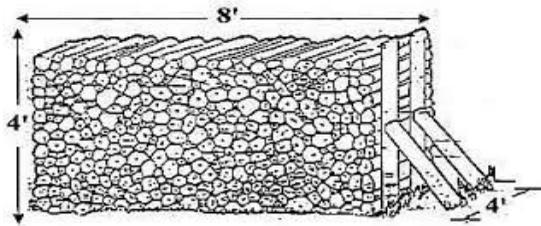


## Purchasing Firewood

In, Ohio, the most common, legal method of sale for firewood is the **cord** or the fraction of a cord. A cord is defined as 128 cubic feet when the wood is stacked and well stowed.



The seller of firewood must provide the purchaser with a delivery ticket including:

1. Name and address of the vendor as well as purchaser
2. Delivery date
3. Amount delivered
4. Quantity upon which the price is based
5. Total price of delivery
6. Identity of the product in descriptive terms

\*When selling, advertising, or offering firewood for sale, a cord is the acceptable measure to use\*

## Prepackaged commodities & labeling

2 things to know and remember:

1. All prepared goods must be marked with a statement concerning net contents
2. Net weight **does not include** the weight of the bag, wrapper, or container in which a commodity may be weighed.

Bread must be sold by Net weight, wrapped or not. Meat and meat products must also be sold by Net weight. When purchasing produce by the pound, the weight must allow for the plastic bag (0.01 lbs. DOES make a difference in total price).



### **The Reliable Merchant**

- Contacts local Weights and Measures Office after installing/repairing weighing/measuring devices or if questions arise
- Wants to know that his customers are receiving full measure for the dollars, spend no more or no less
- Is aware that weighing and measuring devices are delicate mechanisms and can become inaccurate with constant use
- Spot checks merchandise he buys for accuracy

### **The informed Consumer**

- Knows what is required of merchants
- Learns to read scale indicators and observe the weighing
- Ensures purchase is by NET WEIGHT and **does not** include wrapping material
- Expects accurate weights/measures in purchases

### WHEN BUYING BY COUNT

When purchasing prescription medications ask the pharmacist how many pills you are supposed to receive and ask him to include the amount on the label of the prescription. Count the pills to ensure you have received the correct amount. If a shortage is found, immediately telephone or return to the pharmacy to report discrepancy. You can also spot check anything that is sold by count such as over the counter medications.

**USING SCALES: Look for the current year County Auditor Weights and Measures seal on the weighing device.** See the net weight and total price indications show zero before weighing the product. Make sure the correct price per pound is entered. In over-the-counter sales, the scales and their quantity value indicators must be in plain view of the customer. When you are purchasing merchandise on a counter scale, keep in mind that the height of the person can cause a difference when reading the indicator on non-electric scales. Merchants should check all devices for accuracy at least once a day. Question the merchant if you are in doubt about a transaction. In case of short weight, do not condemn too harshly, it could be the result of an error that can be quickly rectified.

A scale weighing one ounce light when weighing a product selling for \$1.00 per pound, repeated 100 times a day for 1 year could result in the merchant losing several hundred dollars annually.



## AT YOUR SERVICE

Weights and Measures officials do much more than just check package quantities. They may also be found checking the accuracy of such things as the UPC scanner and scale in the supermarket, the neighborhood gasoline pump and L.P. gas scale-almost every weighing and measuring device that affects your pocketbook.

The County Auditor is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of weights and measuring devices used commercially in the county. A good Weights and Measures Program saves the average household hundreds of dollars each year. The Weights and Measures Department seal **protects both the buyer and the seller** by ensuring marketplace equality.

## PURCHASING GAS

Be sure that **zero** is indicated on the amount of gallons and purchase total **before** starting to pump. Multiply the price per gallon by the amount of gallons to be sure the total price is correct. When possible, pump one gallon from a self-serve pump and check price against the pump's advertised price per gallon. Take note of the identifying number on the gasoline pumps in case a problem should develop. This will help our office verify any complaint. If purchasing in large quantities from a metered vehicle watch the meter if possible. If pumps are **not sealed**, be sure to ask **'why'**.



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Become acquainted with your local Weights and Measures Official, whom is regulated through the County Auditor.

**Richard Jeffrey**  
Erie County Auditor



## CONSUMER INFORMATION

Sealer, Weights and Measures  
Erie County Auditor



**Brought to you by your  
Erie County Auditor  
Richard Jeffrey**



**ARE YOU PROTECTED?**

**QUALITY VS. QUANTITY**

Quality = subjective

Quantity = objective

**Quality**– one person's good quality can be another person's bad taste. In a free market economy, deciding on the best quality to purchase is the judgment of the consumer. Government regulates quality **only** to the extent that certain minimum standards for health and safety are imperative to the efficient functioning of a free market economy. Beyond that, *quality* becomes a very *subjective* matter.

**Quantity**– the content of a package can be determined with a high degree of accuracy. But determining the amount in the package requires a great deal of training: 1. a thorough technical knowledge of the varying characteristics of different types of commodities and, 2. a wide range of precise measuring equipment. As a result we have trained employees checking packages so the public can be sure that when a package states "1 pound", there is indeed 1 pound in the package. They are checking the *quantity* and *weight* of the contents of packages in your supermarket today. They are your **Weights and Measures Officials**.