Conversion Factors and Units of Measurement

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TABLE 3 Factors for Conversion of Units

To Convert from U.S. Units to SI Units, Multiply by:	U.S. Unit	SI Unit	To Convert from SI Units to U.S. Units, Multiply by:
25.4	in.	mm	0.03937
0.3048	ft	m	3.281
645.2	$in.^2$	mm^2	1.550×10^{-3}
16.39×10^3	$in.^3$	mm^3	61.02×10^{-6}
416.2×10^3	$in.^4$	mm^4	2.403×10^{-6}
0.09290	ft^2	m^2	10.76
0.02832	ft^3	m^3	35.31
0.4536	lb (mass)	kg	2.205
4.448	lb (force)	N	0.2248
4.448	kip (force)	kN	0.2248
1.356	ft-lb (moment)	N-m	0.7376
1.356	kip-ft (moment)	kN-m	0.7376
16.0185	lb/ft^3 (density)	kg/m^3	0.06243
14.59	lb/ft (load)	N/m	0.06853
14.59	kip/ft (load)	kN/m	0.06853
6.895	psi (stress)	kPa	0.1450
6.895	ksi (stress)	MPa	0.1450
0.04788	psf (load or pressure)	kPa	20.93
47.88	ksf (load or pressure)	kPa	0.02093
$0.566 \times (°F - 32)$	°F	°C	$(1.8 \times °C) + 32$

TABLE 2 Units of Measurement: SI System

Name of Unit	Abbreviation	Use in Building Design
Length		
Meter	m	Large dimensions, building plans, beam spans
Millimeter	mm	Small dimensions, size of member cross sections
Area		
Square meters	m^2	Large areas
Square millimeters	mm^2	Small areas, properties of member cross sections
Volume		
Cubic meters	m^3	Large volumes
Cubic millimeters	mm^3	Small volumes
Mass		
Kilogram	kg	Mass of material (equivalent to weight in U.S. units)
Kilograms per cubic meter	kg/m^3	Density (unit weight)
Force, Load		
Newton	N	Force or load on structure
Kilonewton	kN	1000 Newtons
Stress		
Pascal	Pa	Stress or pressure (1 pascal = 1 N/m^2)
Kilopascal	kPa	1000 pascals
Megapascal	MPa	1,000,000 pascals
Gigapascal	GPa	1,000,000,000 pascals
Temperature		
Degree Celsius	°C	Temperature

TABLE 1 Units of Measurement: U.S. System

Name of Unit	Abbreviation	Use in Building Design
Length		
Foot	ft	Large dimensions, building plans, beam spans
Inch	in.	Small dimensions, size of member cross sections
Area		
Square feet	ft^2	Large areas
Square inches	$in.^2$	Small areas, properties of cross sections
Volume		
Cubic yards	yd^3	Large volumes, of soil or concrete (commonly called simply "yards")
Cubic feet	ft^3	Quantities of materials
Cubic inches	$in.^3$	Small volumes
Force, Mass		
Pound	lb	Specific weight, force, load
Kip	kip, k	1000 pounds
Ton	ton	2000 pounds
Pounds per foot	lb/ft, plf	Linear load (as on a beam)
Kips per foot	kips/ft, klf	Linear load (as on a beam)
Pounds per square foot	lb/ft^2, psf	Distributed load on a surface, pressure
Kips per square foot	k/ft^2, ksf	Distributed load on a surface, pressure
Pounds per cubic foot	lb/ft^3	Relative density, unit weight
Moment		
Foot-pounds	ft-lb	Rotational or bending moment
Inch-pounds	in.-lb	Rotational or bending moment
Kip-feet	kip-ft	Rotational or bending moment
Kip-inches	kip-in.	Rotational or bending moment
Stress		
Pounds per square foot	lb/ft^2, psf	Soil pressure
Pounds per square inch	$lb/in.^2$, psi	Stresses in structures
Kips per square foot	$kips/ft^2$, ksf	Soil pressure
Kips per square inch	$kips/in.^2$, ksi	Stresses in structures
Temperature		
Degree Fahrenheit	°F	Temperature