

Paper Weights

GSM= grams per square metre.

If you took a piece of paper that was exactly 1metre² and weighed it in grams you would have the grams per square metre.

Papers come in different weights, but they also come in different types e.g. you may have a 160gsm uncoated card and a 160gsm coated card and one maybe stiffer than the other one and may 'feel' heavier than the other, even though they are both the same weight.

Another problem is that some papers are marked in 'lbs' meaning pounds, often used by USA paper merchants (see table below).

Item	USA lbs and description	GSM	Similar Weights
1	20lb Bond / Writing / Ledger	75	1 & 5
2	24lb Bond / Writing / Ledger	90	2 & 6
3	28lb Bond / Writing / Ledger	105	3 & 7
4	32lb Bond / Writing / Ledger	120	4 & 8
5	50lb Book / Text / offset	75	5 & 1
6	60lb Book / Text / offset	90	6 & 2
7	70lb Book / Text / offset	105	7 & 3
8	80lb Book / Text / offset	120	8 & 4
9	100lb Text	150	9 & 10
10	67lb Bristol	145	10 & 9
11	90lb Index	165	11 & 14
12	110lb Index	200	12 & 15
13	140lb Index	255	13 & 16
14	65lb Cover	175	14 & 11
15	80lb Cover	215	15 & 12
16	100lb Cover	275	16 & 13
17	130lb Cover	350	none

So always make sure you both see and handle your chosen paper before committing to having it printed.

