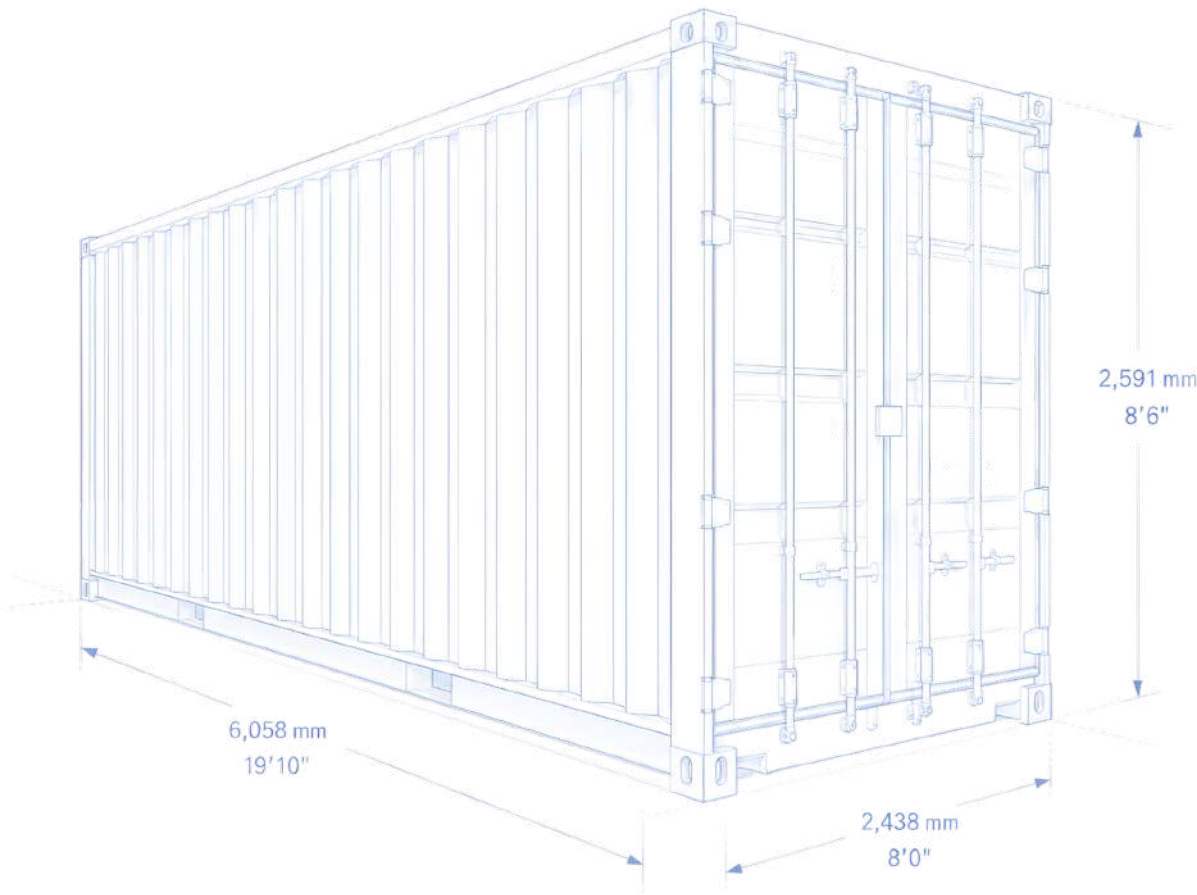


OFFICIAL TRADE RESOURCE

Container Types, Sizes, and Capacities

Practical guide to standard, high-cube, reefer, open-top, and flat-rack containers, including key dimensions and approximate capacities.



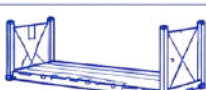
Common Container Types

Visual guide to the most frequently used ocean freight containers and the cargo they are design to carry.

What is a shipping container?

It's a standardised cargo unit designed for efficient handling across vessels, trucks, and rail. Container selection depends on cargo dimensions, weight, loading method, and enviromental requirements.



CONTAINER TYPE		BEST USED FOR	KEY FEATURE
	Standard Dry	Cartons, pallets, general cargo	Fully enclosed and weather-resistant
	High-Cube	Lightweight or high-volume cargo	Additional internal height
	Reefer	Food, pharmaceuticals and temperature-sensitive cargo	Controlled-temperature environment
	Open-Top	Tall or crane-loaded cargo	Removable roof or tarpaulin cover
	Flat-Rack	Machinery, vehicles and oversized cargo	Open sides and collapsible end walls



Standard vs Special Equipment

Standard dry and high-cube containers are suitable for most general cargo. Reefer, open-top, and flat-racks units require more detailed planning and may have limited availability.



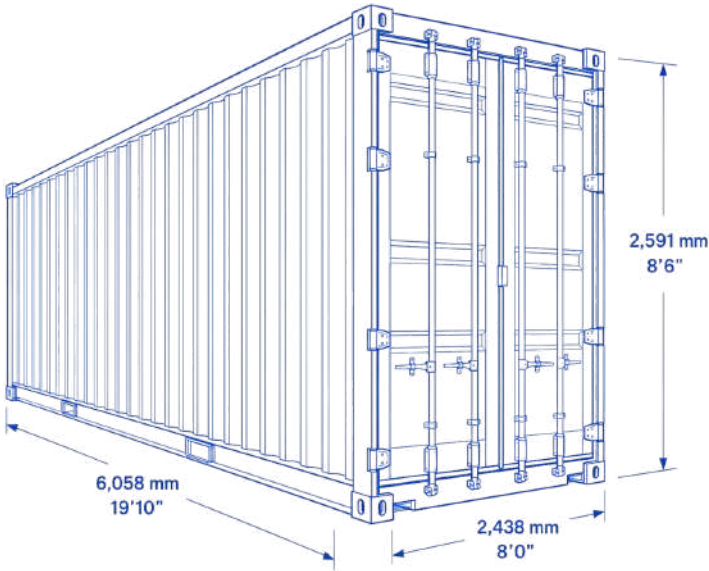
Planning Note

Container specifications, payload limits, and availability may differ by shipping line, manufacturer, and route. Final equipment selection should be confirmed before booking.

Container Sizes and Capacity Planning

Practical comparison of common container dimensions, approximate capacity, and shipment-planning considerations.

Size and capacity comparison



CONTAINER	EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS (L × W × H)	APPROX. INTERNAL VOLUME	TYPICAL PAYLOAD (approx.)
20' Standard Dry	6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m 19'10" × 8'0" × 8'6"	Around 33 m ³ 1,165 ft ³	Around 28 tonnes
40' Standard Dry	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m 40'0" × 8'0" × 8'6"	Around 67 m ³ 2,390 ft ³	Around 27 tonnes
40' High-Cube	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.90 m 40'0" × 8'0" × 9'6"	Around 76 m ³ 2,700 ft ³	Around 26 – 27 tonnes
20' Reefer	6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m 19'10" × 8'0" × 8'6"	Around 28 m ³ 990 ft ³	Varies by unit
40' High-Cube Reefer	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.90 m 40'0" × 8'0" × 9'6"	Around 67 m ³ 2,400 ft ³	Varies by unit

Note: Dimensions and capacities are approximate and may vary by manufacturer and shipping line.



POSSIBLE PALLET CAPACITY (APPROX.)

20' CONTAINER	40' CONTAINER	40' HIGH-CUBE
10 – 11 Standard Pallets	20 – 21 Standard Pallets	Similar floor capacity to 40' container with more vertical space



CARGO PLANNING GUIDE

	General palletised cargo	→ Standard Dry
	High-volume, lightweight cargo	→ High-Cube
	Temperature-controlled products	→ Reefer
	Cargo exceeding standard door height	→ Open-Top
	Wide, heavy or irregular machinery	→ Flat-Rack



BEFORE YOU BOOK – CHECKLIST

- ☐ Number and size of packages
- ☐ Stackability
- ☐ Over-height or over-width dimensions
- ☐ Total gross cargo weight
- ☐ Loading method
- ☐ Lashing and securing requirements
- ☐ Pallet or skid dimensions
- ☐ Temperature requirements



PRACTICAL TIP

Measure the packed cargo, not just the product. Include pallets, skids, crates, protective framing and protruding parts when checking whether cargo will fit through the container doors.