

Significant Figures

Chemistry

How many to give, and when to round.

The counting rules.

Number	Sig figs	Why
25.00	4	Trailing zeros after a decimal count
0.00250	3	Leading zeros do not count
1200	Ambiguous	Use 1.20×10^3 to be clear
100.0	4	Decimal point makes them count
0.050	2	Leading zeros never count

Multiplication and division: match the fewest significant figures.
Addition and subtraction: match the fewest decimal places.