

The typical supermarket is organized similarly to stores in the U.S. and Canada, as follows:

The entrance is usually located at one extreme of the store and that same wall is lined with the cashiers. Carts and baskets are located at the entrance. Food products and necessity items are located at the back of the store. Reduced items, "on sale" items, "hook" items, "two for one" "x% free" or "free in the purchase of" items and the like are located in the aisles or at the corners or heads of the shelves. Top selling articles are either located there or at eye level, while less sold items are put lower down. Products that are exhibited in preferential areas usually are the best selling items or those with a promotional price, usually sold at lower prices by the producer to the chain or items that need to be sold out. Shelves usually go from floor to 1.65 m. There usually is soft background music, which periodically is interrupted by announcements on articles sold or in promotion. At the cashier, a series of small articles are located, such as magazines, toothbrushes, razors, candy and the sort.

Common departments are:

Home appliances

Other items for the home

Photography

Clothing and apparel for men, women and children

Toys and games

Sporting goods

Toiletries & cosmetics

Books & records

Hardware

Garden and leisure

Beverages & foodstuffs

Department stores tend to be large stores carrying predominantly apparel for women (approximately 25% of sales), men (20%) and babies and children (15%); home furnishings (15%) such as furniture, carpets, lamps, appliances, consumer electronics and art; sundries (15%) such as accessories, cosmetics, perfumes, toilet articles, jewelry, books, records, optical, computers, and travel; and other (10%) such as kitchen articles, textiles, notions, bed and bath linen, glass and crystal, tableware and china. These stores are also set up as in the United States or Canada. They often have several stories carrying related items. Most often the basement has furniture, home textiles, carpets, etc.; the main floor has perfumes, cosmetics, accessories, presents; the next floors have apparel by sex and age and department; and another floor carries kitchen articles, electronics, housewares, tableware, china, glass, silver, etc. Each section relates to a central cashier where the wares are paid and picked up. Several employees are in charge of sales in a particular department and self service is not encouraged.

Chain stores also are usually large stores carrying one type of item but in several locations. Among the most important products carried by chain stores are apparel, furniture, pharmaceuticals