The state is divided into townships which are identified by their Town (N or S) and Range (E or W) location in respect to Michigan's Meridian and Base lines.

Sections are typically divided into quarters (ex: NW 1/4) and sometimes halves (ex: W1/2), which are then divided again into quarter-quarters (ex: NW1/4 of NW1/4) and so on. It is best to remember to read a land description backwards.

A township is normally a quadrangle approximately 6 miles on a side which contains thirty-six (36) sections. As shown below in some townships corrections for the earth's curvature will show up on it's northern and western boundary lines. Also, note the way in which sections are numbered within a township.

Typical example showing distances, acreages and land descriptions within a section.
1 Mile = 5280 Feet = 320 Rods = 80 Chains
1/2 Mile = 2640 Feet

Typical example of a section containing Government Lots (fractional part of a section designated on the township plat).