

Open Shelving vs Closed Cabinet

Side-by-Side Comparison Guide

Specification	Open Shelving	Closed Cabinet
Typical Dimensions	Often 30"–36" wide and 12"–15" deep in office bookcase formats	Available in many widths and heights, commonly 30"–36" wide and 18" deep
Approx. Product Weight	Approx. 60–150 lbs	Approx. 90–240 lbs
Best For	reference materials, display items, and frequently accessed office supplies	offices that want a cleaner visual line and better protection from dust or casual visibility
Primary Strength	keeps contents visible and immediately reachable	hides supplies and paperwork, preserving a more polished room appearance
Primary Trade-Off	exposes clutter and offers no dust or visual concealment	slower to access than open shelving and slightly more visually heavy
Accessory / Storage Fit	works beautifully with decorative bins and binders	can include locks, shelves, and matching casegoods finishes
Installation Notes	easy to position and easier to access than door-based storage	standard cabinet assembly or delivery
Maintenance Level	simple, though visible items require regular tidying	easy and forgiving in active offices

When to Choose Open Shelving

- Choose Open Shelving / Bookcase when the office needs a solution designed for reference materials, display items, and frequently accessed office supplies.
- Open Shelving / Bookcase also makes sense when the surrounding furniture plan already supports its strengths.
- If the project includes accessories or storage, it helps that open shelving / bookcase works beautifully with decorative bins and binders.
- From a purchasing standpoint, Open Shelving / Bookcase is the smarter recommendation when you want the furniture to feel purpose-built rather than merely acceptable.

When to Choose Closed Cabinet

- Choose Closed Storage Cabinet when your priorities are centered on offices that want a cleaner visual line and better protection from dust or casual visibility.
- Buyers also gravitate toward it when they want a piece that feels easier to adapt if headcount, room assignment, or workflow changes later.
- That does not make Closed Storage Cabinet the compromise choice.
- In the right application, it is the more disciplined specification because it solves the real need without asking the room or the budget to carry unnecessary overhead.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

For most offices comparing these two options, Closed Storage Cabinet is the more flexible overall choice. Contact us if you want help matching the right size, finish, or companion products to your space.