

Corner Desks

These are the 5 most commonly asked questions about corner desks for commercial office environments, with straightforward answers to help you make a confident, well-informed purchase decision.

Top 5 Questions — Corner Desks

1

What is a corner desk and how does it differ from an L-shaped desk?

A corner desk is a triangular or wedge-shaped surface unit designed specifically to bridge two perpendicular surfaces in a room corner — it is a component, not a complete workstation on its own. An L-shaped desk is a complete workstation that includes both a main work surface and a return wing connected through a corner, typically using a corner unit as part of its structure. In commercial furniture, corner units are used as the bridging element between two desk sections in an L-shaped or U-shaped configuration. Standalone corner desks provide a compact work surface anchored at the room corner, making efficient use of space that would otherwise go unused.

2

How much space does a corner desk require?

Corner desks are among the most space-efficient workstation formats because they anchor into a room corner, keeping the center of the room clear. A standard corner unit with two 48-inch wings requires an overall footprint of approximately 48" × 48". Add chair clearance behind the seated user — a minimum of 36–42 inches from the back of the chair to the nearest wall or obstruction. A full corner workstation fits comfortably in a room of approximately 8' × 8', with adequate clearance for a guest chair in front and a side traffic path. The corner placement also ensures the maximum work surface is within arm's reach of the user.

3**What are corner desks used for in an office layout?**

Corner desks serve three purposes in commercial layouts. First, they efficiently use corner areas that would otherwise be wasted space, bringing 24–36 inches of work surface into a zone typically used for nothing. Second, they serve as the structural link in L-shaped and U-shaped workstation configurations, connecting the main desk and the return wing. Third, freestanding corner desks are used as compact individual workstations in small private offices, home offices, or open-plan environments where a full L-desk footprint is not available but the user needs more surface than a straight desk provides.

4**What storage options are available with corner desks?**

Corner desks in L-shaped and U-shaped configurations draw on the full range of pedestal options available for the connected desk sections — BBF (box/box/file), FF (file/file), or BF (box/file) pedestals can be placed under either wing. The corner unit itself does not typically carry a pedestal due to the angled geometry, but it may support a hutch or overhead storage above the corner area. Freestanding standalone corner desks often include a single pedestal on one side. In all configurations, mobile pedestals (rolling BBF or BF units) provide flexible supplemental storage that can be positioned anywhere under or adjacent to the desk.

5**How do I determine which corner orientation I need?**

Corner desk orientation — which direction each wing extends — is determined by the room's corner position and the user's workflow, not personal preference. Stand in the room at the intended desk location, face the corner, and identify where walls, windows, doors, and traffic paths fall on either side. The wings should extend along the walls rather than blocking doorways or traffic routes. In L-shaped configurations, the longer main wing typically faces the door or window while the return wing runs along the adjacent wall. Confirm the exact orientation before ordering — corner desk configurations are factory-set and typically cannot be reversed after manufacturing.

Have more questions? Our office furniture specialists are ready to help.

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