

Lounge Seating

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

Top 5 Questions — Lounge Seating

1

What types of lounge seating are used in commercial offices?

Commercial lounge seating includes lounge chairs (single seats with padded frames), two-seat and three-seat sofas (common in reception and breakout areas), modular seating systems (individual components that connect to form custom configurations), and high-back privacy chairs or pods (enclosing the head and sides for acoustic separation in open environments). Ottomans and poufs provide flexible supplemental seating and foot support. Tandem seating (connected row units with shared arms) is used in waiting areas for high-volume visitor traffic. The right type depends on the zone's function: formal reception needs structured upholstered seating; informal collaborative spaces benefit from modular configurations that can be rearranged; focus zones need high-back privacy chairs.

2

How do I select lounge seating for a reception area?

Reception area lounge seating must be durable for high-traffic varied-user environments, easy to keep clean, comfortable for 15–45 minute waits, and visually aligned with the organization's brand. Select commercial-grade upholstery rated 250,000+ double rubs on the Wyzenbeek scale — vinyl for healthcare or high-spill risk environments, contract fabric for standard corporate reception. Seat height of 17–19 inches is the accessible standard. Include at least one armrest chair per seating grouping for mobility-impaired visitors. All pieces should carry BIFMA certification for commercial seating. Visually, the reception seating is the first furnishing impression — select proportions and finishes that align with the lobby's design language, not just convenience.

3**What seat height and depth should lounge chairs have for an office?**

Commercial lounge chairs for professional office environments should have seat heights of 17–19 inches (the ADA-accessible range that allows most adults to sit and stand easily) and seat depths of 19–22 inches (deeper seats are comfortable for relaxed lounging but become difficult to exit for shorter users and mobility-impaired visitors). Very deep, low lounge seating (common in residential furniture) is inappropriate for commercial reception and waiting areas — visitors struggle to stand from seats lower than 17 inches or deeper than 22 inches. For collaborative work use in team lounges and breakout areas, slightly deeper seats (20–23 inches) and lower profiles are acceptable when users are younger and mobile.

4**What is modular lounge seating and where does it work best?**

Modular lounge seating consists of individual components — corner sections, straight sections, end units, ottomans, and sometimes table inserts — that connect to form custom configurations and can be reconfigured as needed. Modular systems work best in collaborative team lounges, breakout areas, and open-plan social zones where the seating arrangement needs to change based on group size and activity. They are particularly effective in large open lobbies where a fixed sofa-and-chairs grouping would look undersized. The flexibility to add sections as teams grow and to rearrange without replacing the full set is a significant advantage in dynamic office environments. Ensure module connection hardware is durable and that the configuration does not tip or separate under normal use.

5**What materials are best for commercial lounge seating?**

For commercial lounge seating, upholstery should be contract-grade with 250,000+ double rubs — standard residential fabric will show significant wear within 12–18 months of commercial use. Vinyl and performance fabrics (solution-dyed polyester or coated fabric) offer the best combination of durability and ease of cleaning. Genuine leather is premium but requires maintenance; high-quality PU vinyl provides a leather appearance with far less maintenance burden. Frame construction should be solid hardwood or steel — avoid lightweight frames with stapled joints. Seat foam density should be commercial-grade at 1.8 lbs per cubic foot or higher; residential foam compresses within months of commercial use. BIFMA certification confirms the seating meets commercial standards for both structural integrity and foam performance.

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

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