

Mobile Pedestals

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

Top 5 Questions — Mobile Pedestals

1

What is a mobile pedestal and what are the drawer configurations?

A mobile pedestal is a rolling under-desk storage unit on locking casters, typically 15–18 inches wide, 20–24 inches deep, and 27–28 inches tall — sized to roll under a standard desk surface. The three main configurations are BBF (box/box/file — two shallow supply drawers plus one deep file drawer), FF (file/file — two full-depth file drawers for maximum filing capacity), and BF (box/file — one supply drawer plus one file drawer). BBF is the most versatile and most common configuration for general knowledge workers who need both supply storage and hanging file capability. FF is used by heavy filers or legal/administrative roles. A central lock on the top box drawer typically interlocks with the file drawer below, securing both with a single key.

2

What size files do mobile pedestal drawers hold — letter or legal?

Standard mobile pedestal file drawers accommodate letter-size hanging folders (8.5" × 11") natively. Legal-size folders (8.5" × 14") require a pedestal with at least 15–16 inches of interior drawer width and are often specified separately as 'legal-size' configurations. Always confirm letter vs. legal capability when ordering — not all pedestals support legal-size files and the distinction is not always obvious in product listings. The most practical approach for most offices is to standardize on letter-size filing, which is supported by all mobile pedestals, and reserve legal-size specifications only for roles that actively use legal-size documents (legal departments, real estate, contracts management).

3**Should I choose a fixed pedestal or a mobile pedestal?**

Fixed pedestals are built into or attached to the desk structure and cannot be removed without disassembling the desk — they provide the cleanest appearance and maximum structural stability but cannot be repositioned. Mobile pedestals on locking casters roll under the desk and can be moved anywhere — to the other side of the desk, to a shared space, or alongside a different desk entirely. Mobile pedestals are the standard choice for open-plan and hot-desking environments where employees move between stations, for organizations that frequently reconfigure their furniture layout, and as supplemental storage alongside fixed-pedestal desks. In hybrid environments where employees don't have a permanently assigned desk, a mobile pedestal that travels with the employee is a practical personal storage solution.

4**Do mobile pedestals lock and how important is the lock?**

Yes — commercial mobile pedestals include a central lock (typically a cam lock or pin-tumbler cylinder) that secures all drawers simultaneously through an interlock mechanism. The lock is important for securing personal items, confidential documents, medications, and valuables when the user steps away from their workstation. In open-plan and hot-desking environments where adjacent users could easily access unlocked storage, the lock is essential. Many pedestals use interchangeable lock cores so the same key can be used across all pedestals on a floor — convenient for facilities management. When ordering multiple pedestals, specify whether keyed-alike or keyed-different configurations are needed.

5**What are the caster and anti-tip requirements for mobile pedestals?**

Mobile pedestals use four swivel casters on the base — specify soft polyurethane (PU) casters for hard floors to prevent scratching and marking; use hard casters for carpeted surfaces. At least two of the four casters should be locking casters — these keep the pedestal stationary when it is parked under the desk during use. Anti-tip interlock is a safety feature that prevents multiple drawers from being opened simultaneously — opening two heavy loaded file drawers at once significantly raises the unit's center of gravity and can cause it to tip. Specify commercial-grade pedestals with anti-tip interlocks for any environment where loaded file drawers will be accessed regularly. Never exceed the pedestal's rated weight capacity in any single drawer.

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

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