

Office Chairs

1 Always spec BIFMA-certified chairs for commercial environments
BIFMA x5.1 certification is the minimum standard that separates commercial from residential-grade seating. Certified chairs are tested for 24,000+ hours of use under load cycling — uncertified chairs fail faster and carry no commercial warranty.

3 Specify caster type based on floor surface
Standard hard casters are designed for carpet and will scratch hardwood or tile. Specify soft polyurethane casters for hard floors. Getting this wrong means floor damage and chairs that won't roll properly.

5 4D armrests outperform fixed or 2D arms for daily use
4D armrests adjust in height, width, depth, and pivot. This lets users position forearms neutrally so shoulders don't hunch or raise. Fixed armrests often end up unused because they don't fit the user — wasted cost.

7 Mesh backs run cooler but fabric backs last longer in dirty environments
Mesh is breathable and ideal for warm offices or long work sessions. However, mesh can accumulate grime in manufacturing or food-service environments where fabric is easier to spot-clean and replace.

9 Request fabric/finish samples before bulk orders
Color rendering on screens rarely matches the actual upholstery. Even a slight mismatch between chair fabric and desk finish is obvious in person. Samples take a few days and prevent costly mismatches on large orders.

2 Seat depth adjustment is often overlooked — don't skip it
A seat that's too deep forces users to perch on the front edge, eliminating lumbar support entirely. A 2"–4" seat slide lets users of different leg lengths maintain proper thigh-to-back contact throughout the day.

4 Plan for a range of sizes — not one-size-fits-all
A standard task chair fits users up to approximately 250 lbs and 6'2". For any workforce, plan 10–15% big-and-tall capacity (250–400 lb rated). Ordering all the same chair ignores real-world user variability.

6 Lumbar should be adjustable in both height and depth
A fixed lumbar pad fits one spine curve. Adjustable lumbar height moves the support to match the user's lower back; adjustable depth controls how much inward pressure is applied. Both matter for all-day comfort.

8 Conference chairs and task chairs are not interchangeable
Conference chairs are designed for 1–3 hours of intermittent use. Using them as full-time workstation chairs accelerates wear, causes postural fatigue, and creates warranty issues. Always match chair type to intended use hours.

10 Anti-tip bases and five-star configurations are non-negotiable
Four-point chair bases are residential-grade and tip backward. All commercial task and executive chairs use five-star bases. Confirm this spec — a tipping chair is both a safety hazard and a liability issue.