

Cubicles & Workstations

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

Top 5 Questions — Cubicles & Workstations

1

What is the standard size for a commercial cubicle?

The most common commercial cubicle footprints are 6' × 6' (36 sq ft) for compact workstations and 8' × 8' (64 sq ft) for standard private-feel stations. 6' × 8' is a popular intermediate size that balances surface area with floor efficiency. Panel heights range from 42 inches (low — provides some privacy while preserving sight lines) to 53–65 inches (standard — seated privacy without full enclosure) to 85+ inches (full height — approaches private office enclosure). The right size depends on the role's privacy needs, the amount of equipment on the desk, and the floor plate density goals of the project.

2

What is the difference between systems furniture and open-plan benching?

Systems furniture (panel-based workstations) uses partition walls as the structural skeleton — surfaces and storage hang from the panels. Typical panel heights range from 42 to 85+ inches, providing varying degrees of visual and acoustic privacy. Benching systems share a central structural spine or beam with low panels (12–24 inches above the surface) that are purely functional dividers. Systems furniture delivers more acoustic and visual privacy, more built-in storage, and stronger personal territory signals. Benching is more space-efficient, less expensive per station, and better for collaborative cultures. The choice depends on the balance of deep-focus vs. collaborative work the team performs.

3**How do I plan power and data for a cubicle installation?**

Cubicle power delivery connects to a base building electrical circuit at a power entry point and distributes through a raceway system integrated into the panel structure. Standard specification for a knowledge worker cubicle is 4 power outlets plus 2 data ports plus 1 USB-A/C combo per station. Higher-density power users (dual monitors, desktop PC, docking station, phone) should receive 6 outlets and 4 data ports. Power entry requires coordination with the building's electrical infrastructure — confirm floor box or wall outlet locations align with the cubicle run configuration before furniture is ordered. Retrofitting power feed locations after installation is significantly more expensive than planning ahead.

4**What panel heights should I choose for my workstations?**

Panel height selection balances privacy with openness and natural light penetration. Low panels (42 inches) allow standing employees to see over them, promote a collaborative culture, and let daylight travel deep into the floor plate — best for highly collaborative teams in well-lit spaces. Standard panels (53–65 inches) provide seated visual privacy without full enclosure — the most common choice for mixed-role open-plan environments. Full-height panels (85+ inches) approach private office enclosure and are appropriate for roles requiring concentration, confidentiality, or phone-intensive work. Many installations use mixed heights — full or standard at panel faces, lower at interior dividers — to balance privacy and openness.

5**What should be included in a fully specified cubicle workstation?**

A complete cubicle specification includes: the panel configuration (footprint, heights, finish, fabric); the work surface (size, laminate finish, with or without modesty panel); overhead storage (hutch or overhead bins — critical in cubicle environments to compensate for lack of closet storage); pedestal storage (BBF or FF under the work surface or as a mobile unit); tackable surface or whiteboard within the panel area; task lighting (overhead ambient lighting often insufficient within panel enclosures); cable management (raceway with grommets); and power/data (outlets, data ports, USB). Specifying an incomplete workstation — panels without storage or storage without power — produces an unusable station.

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

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