

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY AN EXECUTIVE DESK

An executive desk conveys authority, organizational permanence, and professional standards. Beyond the visual impression, an incorrectly specified desk creates workflow inefficiencies — insufficient surface area, incompatible storage configurations, or a finish that deteriorates under daily use. These 10 questions ensure the desk you select performs and presents as well in year five as it does on delivery day.

1. What are the overall dimensions, and does the size fit my room with clearance?

Executive desks range from 60"–72" wide and 30"–36" deep. Industry planning standards call for 48"–60" of clearance behind the desk to accommodate chair recline and guest passage. Our team recommends verifying desk dimensions against the room with the chair fully reclined and door swing accounted for — a desk that commands a room projects authority, while one that overfills the space signals a sizing oversight.

2. What is the surface material, and how durable is it?

Executive desk surfaces span from high-pressure laminate (HPL) to thermally fused laminate (TFL) to real wood veneer. TFL is the most widely specified for its combination of durability and value — delivering strong scratch, heat, and moisture resistance for daily executive use. HPL offers comparable durability. Veneer provides a premium woodgrain aesthetic but requires additional maintenance and may be susceptible to moisture damage and edge chipping. For veneer selections, confirming the species (cherry, mahogany, walnut, oak) and finish type (polyurethane, lacquer, oil) is recommended.

3. What pedestal configuration does it include?

Most executive desks include one or two pedestals in standard configurations: box/box/file (two shallow drawers plus one letter-size file drawer) or file/file (two file drawers). A letter-size-only file drawer has a 10" interior width — insufficient for legal-size files, which require 15" of width. Our specialists recommend explicitly confirming legal-size compatibility before placing the order if your office uses legal documents.

4. Is the desk compatible with a coordinating credenza, and are they sold together?

A credenza positioned behind the executive desk provides secondary work surface area, additional storage, and visual cohesion. Our team recommends confirming that the credenza belongs to the same product line and ships from the same finish batch as the desk. Ordering from different manufacturers — even when finish names match — frequently produces visible color and grain variation under real lighting conditions.

5. Does it include a center drawer, and how deep is the knee space?

Most executive desks do not include a center drawer by default, preserving a clean, open knee space. Slim-line center drawers are typically available as optional accessories. When evaluating knee space, minimum dimensions of 24" wide and 24" deep should be confirmed for comfortable seated use with an armed chair.

6. What is the desktop thickness and edge detail?

Desktop thickness on executive desks ranges from 1" to 2" or more when a thick bullnose or waterfall edge profile is applied. Thicker edges indicate higher-grade construction and accommodate heavier monitor arm mounts. Edge profile defines the desk's visual identity: traditional executive desks typically feature a radius or ogee (S-curve) edge, while contemporary designs use a clean eased or waterfall edge. Our specialists recommend verifying edge construction — solid wood and solid MDF resist chipping significantly better than foam-core wrapped alternatives.

7. What are the cable management options?

Even in traditional executive environments, cable accumulation from power strips, monitors, phone chargers, and connected devices is substantial. The desk should include at least one grommet hole (2.5" minimum diameter) in a practical location — typically one near the center rear and one on each side near the pedestals. A wire management channel along the back rail is a valuable addition. Executive desks without cable management provisions will have exposed cabling visible to anyone seated across from the desk.

8. How is the desk constructed — is it modular or one-piece?

Larger executive desks arrive as multiple components — separate modesty panel, detachable pedestals, and top surface — and are assembled at the destination. This modular shipping approach is standard and typically elevator-compatible. Confirming assembly requirements and whether the manufacturer recommends professional installation is advisable; improperly assembled pedestals can shift under load and damage the desktop surface.

9. What does the warranty cover?

We offer a Free Lifetime Warranty that covers any manufacturer defect. Normal wear and tear, patron abuse, or damage is not covered. For executive desks, understanding the distinction between structural coverage and finish coverage is important. Our Free Lifetime Warranty at OfficeFurniture2go provides confidence that your investment is protected against manufacturer defects.

10. What is the lead time, and is the finish currently in stock?

Executive desks in standard finishes typically ship within 1 week. Custom finishes or non-standard sizes may extend lead times. When timing is critical, confirming stock availability prior to ordering is essential — our team verifies live inventory before accepting orders to ensure delivery commitments are met.

Visit OfficeFurniture2go.com for our Executive Desk Buyer's Guide, including finish samples, room planning tools, and configuration options. Call 800-460-0858 to speak with a specialist about matching your desk to your space and professional requirements.

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