

Guest & Side Chairs – Pro Tips

1 Seat height of 18–19in matches standard desk and conference table height for most visitors

A guest chair with a 17in seat height looks and feels low next to a 30in desk. Confirm seat height coordinates with the furniture it will face or surround.

6 Nail head trim on traditional guest chairs adds visual weight -- confirm it fits the room's design

Antique brass nail head trim is a strong traditional design element. It reads as formal and traditional. In modern or minimal offices, select a contemporary frame style without nail head detail.

2 Vinyl upholstery is the right choice for any reception area with 20+ visitors per day

High-traffic reception chairs accumulate body oil, spills, and surface contamination. Vinyl wipes clean in seconds; fabric requires professional cleaning. The cost difference is recovered in the first year of reduced cleaning labor.

7 Confirm arm clearance when placing guest chairs next to a desk or conference table

Guest chairs with wide arms (26–27in overall width) may not fit comfortably side-by-side in tight reception alcoves or alongside certain desk configurations. Measure before ordering.

3 No-sag spring seats maintain shape significantly longer than foam-only construction

Traditional hardwood-frame guest chairs use a no-sag spring seat base under the foam cushion. This prevents the premature cushion compression that makes foam-only chairs feel collapsed within 2–3 years of commercial use.

8 Stackable sled-base chairs are the right answer for conference overflow -- not traditional guest chairs

Traditional guest chairs are not stackable and require floor storage space. For conference overflow or training rooms, specify a stackable sled-base chair designed for that purpose.

4 Soy-based foam is more durable and more sustainable than petroleum foam

Soy-based seat and back foam maintains density and resilience longer than standard petroleum foam. It also reduces VOC off-gassing in enclosed office environments.

9 Frame finish should coordinate with desk leg and credenza finishes in the same room

Mahogany-frame guest chairs in an office with chrome-leg desks create visual conflict. Confirm frame finish aligns with the dominant metal or wood tone in the room before ordering.

5 Order guest chairs in even numbers for reception and waiting areas

Reception layouts with odd numbers of chairs look unfinished. Groups of 2, 4, or 6 create visual balance and allow pairs of visitors to sit together without an awkward middle gap.

10 Guest chair seat depth of 19–21in works for most adults -- deeper is not always better

A very deep seat (23in+) forces shorter users to sit without back support or to perch at the front edge. The 19–21in range accommodates the widest range of visitor body types in commercial settings.