

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY AN L-SHAPED DESK

The L-shaped desk remains one of the most widely specified workstation configurations for both home offices and commercial environments. Before placing your order, these ten questions address the dimensions, construction quality, and compatibility specifications that ensure you receive the correct desk for your space — without costly returns or compromises.

1. What are the overall dimensions, and which measurement is the "return"?

Every L-shaped desk comprises two distinct work surfaces: the primary surface and a secondary extension known as the return. Industry-standard returns measure 36"–48" in length with a 24" depth, while main surfaces typically span 60"–72" wide by 30" deep. Our specialists recommend requesting both measurements independently — the total footprint figure on a spec sheet (e.g., 66" x 78") indicates room claim only. Understanding which surface serves as the return allows you to orient the desk correctly for your corner or open-plan configuration before placing the order.

2. Is the return left-hand or right-hand, and is it reversible?

L-shaped desks are manufactured in left-hand or right-hand configurations, determined by the return's position relative to the primary surface when facing it. Certain models feature reversible returns that mount on either side; others are fixed. Verifying this specification prior to purchase is essential — returning freight-class furniture due to incorrect return orientation typically incurs \$150–\$400 in restocking and shipping charges.

3. How is the corner junction constructed?

The junction where the return meets the main surface represents the structural seam. Industry-standard construction connects the two pieces from the underside using steel flat brackets and self-tapping wood screws driven into both units. Additional smaller flat brackets are typically provided for the vertical seams where the return modesty panel meets the main surface end panel. A properly engineered junction delivers structural stability that holds up under years of daily commercial use.

4. What is the actual desktop thickness and surface material?

Surface thickness directly impacts durability and accessory compatibility — grommets, monitor mounts, and clamp-on accessories all require adequate material depth. Commercial-grade specifications call for 1" to 1-1/4" thickness. Entry-level or residential surfaces at 5/8"–3/4" will exhibit visible deflection under monitor arm clamps and heavy equipment loads. Our team recommends confirming the surface material type: high-pressure laminate (HPL), thermally fused laminate (TFL), melamine, or wood veneer. TFL remains the industry standard for active commercial environments due to its superior scratch and moisture resistance.

5. What are the leg and frame materials, and what is the weight capacity?

Steel-leg frameworks deliver the highest load capacity, while pin-and-cam joinery is standard across most wood and laminate product lines. A commercial-grade L-shaped desk should carry a minimum rated capacity of 200 lbs. evenly

distributed across the surface. Confirming this specification upfront ensures the desk accommodates your full equipment setup — dual monitors, docking stations, peripherals, and everyday work materials.

6. Does the desk have built-in cable management, and where?

Effective cable management begins with grommet placement. Industry best practice calls for at least two grommet holes (typically 2.5" diameter) — one on the primary surface near the corner junction and one positioned near the CPU or power strip location. Premium models provide two grommets on the main surface and one on the return. Integrated cable routing keeps the workspace organized and maintains a professional appearance from day one.

7. Can I add a hutch or keyboard tray later?

Compatibility with future accessories depends on whether the desk belongs to a modular furniture line. Hutches are generally available for 60", 66", and 72" work surfaces within coordinated product families. Keyboard trays are similarly offered in several configurations to match specific ergonomic requirements. Standalone SKUs without a coordinating line limit accessory options to third-party hardware that may not align properly — identifying the product line during the purchase process preserves maximum future flexibility.

8. What is the warranty, and does it cover the laminate surface?

Commercial-grade L-shaped desks from established manufacturers typically carry a one-year standard warranty. A Limited Lifetime Warranty covering "manufacturer defects" while excluding surface wear represents the most common coverage tier. Normal wear and tear, patron damage, and abuse fall outside standard coverage. We offer a Free Lifetime Warranty that covers any manufacturer defect. Normal wear and tear, patron abuse, or damage is not covered. Understanding these distinctions helps you evaluate the true protection level for your specific environment.

9. What does assembly look like, and are tools included?

The majority of L-shaped desks ship knocked down (flat-packed) and require 45–90 minutes for assembly. Key details to verify: whether the carton includes all necessary hardware, and whether assembly requires only an Allen wrench (hex key) or a power drill. For multi-office installations, our team recommends inquiring about white-glove delivery and installation service — OfficeFurniture2go offers this as an add-on that eliminates the labor and logistics entirely.

10. How long is the lead time, and does it ship via freight or parcel?

L-shaped desks ship via LTL freight due to their size — not UPS or FedEx parcel. This requires scheduling a delivery appointment, with the carrier delivering to your dock or curb rather than your office suite. In-stock commercial desks typically ship within 3–7 business days; custom finishes or laminate selections can extend lead times by 4–6 weeks. Our specialists recommend confirming the lead time in writing before finalizing any order.

For our complete L-Shaped Desk Buyer's Guide — including configuration options, finish samples, and room planning assistance — visit [OfficeFurniture2go.com](https://www.officefurniture2go.com) or call our specialists directly at 800-460-0858. We'll match dimensions, finish, and lead time to your exact requirements.

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