

L-Shaped Desks — Pro Tips

1 Use the Corner Strategically

The corner junction of an L-shaped desk is prime real estate for your primary monitor and docking station. Positioning your main screen in the corner centers it in your sightline while keeping both desk wings accessible for secondary tasks. Many users make the mistake of placing their monitor off-center on one wing, which negates much of the ergonomic and workflow benefit of the L-shape.

2 Keep One Wing Clear

Designate one wing of the L as your primary computer/technology workspace and the other as your clear working surface for writing, reviewing documents, and meeting with visitors. This zoning discipline keeps your desk organized and ensures you always have unobstructed surface space available. Letting both wings accumulate clutter defeats the purpose of the additional surface area.

3 Cable Management at the Corner

The corner of an L-shaped desk is where the most cables converge — monitor, docking station, keyboard, phone, and lamps all route through this area. Invest in a corner grommet kit, cable clips along the back edge, and a cable management box under the desk if needed. A clean corner is the key to a professional-looking L-shaped workstation setup.

4 Check Corner Clearance Before Ordering

L-shaped desks require specific corner space in your office. Measure the available corner dimensions (both the wall-to-wall distance and the diagonal clearance) before purchasing. Many office corners have obstructions — HVAC vents, light switches, outlets — that interfere with desk placement. A standard L-shaped desk needs a full 60×60-inch corner footprint with unobstructed walls.

5 Match Return Height to Your Chair

The standard L-shaped desk return is 29–30 inches high. Verify this is ergonomically appropriate with your chair at its working position. If you're shorter than average, a 27–28-inch return height may be more comfortable. Some L-shaped desk systems offer an adjustable-height return as an upgrade — valuable for environments with multiple users of varying heights sharing a workspace.

6 Use the Return for Storage, Not Clutter

A common mistake is allowing the desk return to become a staging area for papers, boxes, and equipment. Treat the return as deliberate storage with specific purposes: a printer on a dedicated printer stand nearby, an in-box tray for incoming documents, or a laptop stand for a secondary device. Intentional use of the return surface keeps the entire workstation functional and professional.

7 Right-Hand vs. Left-Hand Configurations

L-shaped desks are available in right-return (return extends to the right of the main desk) and left-return configurations. Determine your preference before ordering — it's based on workflow, not handedness. Consider which side your monitor cable, phone, and dominant-hand mouse will be placed. The return typically houses your keyboard and secondary monitor when seated in the corner position.

8 Standing Desk L-Shapes Exist

Electric height-adjustable L-shaped desks are available and are an excellent investment for heavy computer users. A full L-shape adjustment requires either a two-leg system with both legs on one surface or an independent-height return configuration. Verify how the specific product handles height adjustment across the corner joint before purchasing — not all height-adjustable L-shapes are equal in quality.

9 Privacy from an L-Shape

An L-shaped desk naturally positions you with your back to one wall and your side to another, reducing the exposure of your screens to foot traffic. For additional privacy, a monitor privacy filter on your primary screen prevents shoulder surfing. A small acoustic panel at the end of the return creates a subtle visual boundary without blocking light or sightlines.

10 Coordinate the Full Workstation

An L-shaped desk is the anchor piece of a larger workstation system. Coordinate a matching credenza behind your seating position for additional storage, a lateral file to one side, and matching guest chairs in front of your primary wing for a complete, coordinated executive workstation. Consistent finish across all pieces transforms a desk into a complete professional workspace.