

L-Shaped Desks — Pro Tips

1 Confirm return orientation before ordering — it cannot be reversed

"Left return" means the return extends to the left when you're seated. This is the single most common ordering error. Have the buyer stand in the chair position and physically point to which side the return should extend toward.

6 Modesty panels block the under-desk view but reduce legroom

Modesty panels (vertical panels at the front of the desk) provide privacy and a finished look. However, they reduce under-desk clearance for tall users and complicate cable management. Confirm user height and cable needs first.

2 Minimum 42" behind the chair is required — measure before specifying

With a chair pulled back and the user seated, you need 42" minimum of clear floor space behind the desk. In rooms under 10'x10', many L-desks physically won't work. Get room dimensions before recommending any size.

7 Grommet holes should be spec'd at time of order, not retrofitted

Surface grommets for cable pass-through are much easier (and cheaper) to include at order than to drill post-delivery. Identify the monitor, power, and device locations up front and spec grommets accordingly.

3 Thermal fused melamine (TFM) surface is more durable than standard laminate

TFM bonds the surface layer under heat and pressure, creating a harder, scratch-resistant finish. Standard laminate peels and chips under daily commercial use. Specify TFM for any workstation used more than 4 hours daily.

8 Hutches increase vertical storage but reduce sight lines and can feel imposing

An overhead hutch adds significant storage above the desk surface but lowers the ceiling feel of a private office. For executives or in small offices, verify the ceiling height and user preference before adding a hutch to the order.

4 A bridge between main desk and return adds significant workspace

A bridge panel connects the main surface and return at the corner, filling the gap. Without it, the corner area is often unusable. Most L-desk manufacturers offer bridges as an add-on or standard component — always confirm.

9 Matching finishes across desks requires ordering from the same manufacturer series

Laminate finishes vary between manufacturers even when labeled with the same name (e.g., "Harvest Cherry"). To ensure visual consistency across multiple desks, order from the same product line or request samples before committing.

5 Box/Box/File pedestals handle the most common storage combination

A BBF (box/box/file) pedestal provides two small drawers for supplies plus one file-depth drawer for hanging folders. It's the most versatile and popular configuration. File/File (FF) pedestals are better for heavy filers.

10 Surface depth of 24" minimum is required for proper monitor ergonomics

Monitor screens should sit approximately 20"–28" from the user's eyes. A desk surface shallower than 24" forces the monitor too close. Confirm the primary surface depth — especially on the return — before finalizing specs.