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# L-Shaped Desk vs U-Shaped Desk

## Comparison

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### Quick Verdict

The L-desk is the practical pick for most offices — enough room for two monitors and paperwork without requiring a huge room. Step up to a U-desk if you're managing multiple projects simultaneously and have at least 12x12 feet to spare.

Feature / Factor	L-Shaped Desk	U-Shaped Desk
Workspace Surface Area	120–200 sq in typical	200–300+ sq in — significantly more
Minimum Room Size	10x10 ft recommended	12x12 ft minimum, 14x14 ideal
Price Range	\$400–\$2,500+	\$700–\$4,000+
Return Depth	20"–24"	24"–30" — deeper center section
Typical Width (main wing)	60"–72"	72"–84"
Storage Add-ons	Pedestals, hutches available	Often includes built-in storage bridge
Setup Complexity	Moderate — 2 pieces	Higher — 3+ pieces
Modular / System-Ready	Sometimes	Usually yes
Executive Look	Professional	Very impressive
Best For	Individuals needing dual-zone work	Power users, managers, multitaskers

## The Real Differences That Matter

The U-desk essentially wraps around you. You get a main work surface, a full return wing on one side, and a credenza or bridge on the other — often spanning 12 feet or more of total linear desk space. That's roughly 50–80% more surface than a comparable L-desk. The tradeoff is room size: you need a big room to make a U-desk feel spacious rather than cramped. Most L-desks, by contrast, fit comfortably in a 10x10 room without feeling like the desk is eating the space.

### Go With the L-Shaped Desk If...

Your office is under 150 square feet, you work primarily from a computer with occasional paperwork, or you're furnishing a home office on a real-world budget. L-desks in the \$400–\$900 range deliver outstanding value — solid laminate tops, modesty panels, and enough surface to run dual 27" monitors with room to spare. They're also more flexible: if you move offices, an L-desk is far easier to reconfigure than a full U-suite.

### Go With the U-Shaped Desk If...

You're furnishing a private executive office, you regularly spread out large documents or blueprints, or you manage multiple workstreams and hate shuffling things around. U-desks typically include a storage bridge

across the back — built-in cabinets and shelves that keep the desk organized without buying separate pieces. They project serious authority in client-facing offices. Budget \$1,200–\$2,500 for commercial-grade laminate U-suites from brands like Bush Furniture, Martin Furniture, or NDI.

## Room Planning Tips

Before ordering a U-desk, tape out the footprint on your floor. A standard U-suite runs 72" wide x 96" deep — that's 6 feet by 8 feet of floor space just for the desk. Add 36" behind the chair and 24" on the open end for comfortable movement, and you need about 11x13 feet of clear space. L-desks are more forgiving: a 60"x60" L-desk with 36" chair clearance fits in 9x9 feet. Measure twice, order once.

## Value Angle: What You Actually Get for the Money

L-desks offer the best dollars-per-square-foot of workspace among all desk styles. A solid \$600 L-desk from Bush or Martin Furniture gives you more functional surface than a \$600 straight desk and matches the output capability of U-desks at a fraction of the price — for most users. U-desks shine when the storage bridge justifies the cost: you're essentially buying a desk plus a credenza plus a hutch in one integrated system, which often costs less than buying those pieces separately.

## Bottom Line

Pick the L-desk for a smart, space-efficient workstation. Choose the U-desk when your work demands it and your room can handle it. Shop both at [FindOfficeFurniture.com](http://FindOfficeFurniture.com) or call us at [888-719-4960](tel:888-719-4960) — we'll help you find the right fit for your room size and budget.

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