

Bow-Front Desks

1 Verify the Return Connector Is Designed for Bow-Front Profiles

Not all desk returns are compatible with bow-front primary desks. The curved front of the main desk changes the connection geometry at the junction. Always confirm that the return component you're pairing is explicitly listed as compatible with your bow-front model, or buy the full set as a unit to avoid compatibility issues.

3 Traditional Finishes Photograph Dark — See Samples in Person if Possible

Cherry and mahogany bow-front desks photograph darker in catalog images than they appear in real spaces. If possible, request a finish sample chip or visit a showroom before committing to a finish. Espresso is even darker in person than in most photos — it reads nearly black in low-light rooms.

5 Match Hardware Finish to Other Metal in the Room

Executive desks come with hardware in brass, nickel, or dark bronze tones. If your office has other metal accents — lamp bases, picture frames, door hardware — matching the desk hardware to those finishes creates a more cohesive room. A small detail, but it's noticeable in high-end environments.

7 Check That the Pedestal File Fits Both Letter and Legal

Many executive desk pedestals are designed primarily for letter-size files. If you store legal-size documents, confirm the pedestal drawer is at least 15" deep interior — some aren't. Legal-size files don't fit in a letter-only pedestal, and retrofitting is impractical.

9 A Single Pedestal vs. Double Pedestal Changes the Knee Space

Standard executive bow-front desks are available in single-pedestal (one column of drawers) and double-pedestal (columns on both sides) configurations. Double-pedestal desks have less open knee space and feel more enclosed. If you move around in your chair while working, a single-pedestal desk with an open knee space on one side is more comfortable.

2 The Bow Adds Depth — Account for It in Your Room Layout

If the product lists a 30" depth, that measurement is taken at the sides. The center of the bow may project 3" to 5" further into the room. Make sure your room layout accounts for this additional projection, especially if you're placing the desk in a tight space.

4 A Glass Top Protector Preserves the Surface for Years

Bow-front executive desks with veneer surfaces benefit significantly from a cut-to-fit glass top protector. Custom-cut glass protects the veneer from daily wear while letting the wood grain show through. It costs \$50 to \$150 for most desk sizes and dramatically extends the life of the surface.

6 Hutch Arches Can Block Wall Art or Light Fixtures

Bow-front executive sets often include hutch units with arched tops designed to complement the curved desk profile. Before ordering the hutch, check the ceiling height and confirm there are no wall-mounted fixtures, art, or HVAC vents at the height where the hutch will sit. Hutches typically add 36" to 48" above the desk surface.

8 Use a Cord Spine on Curved Edges, Not a Flat Cable Tray

Standard flat cable management trays don't follow a curved edge cleanly. For bow-front desks, use a flexible cord spine (a flexible tube or raceway) that bends to follow the curve, or route cables directly through a grommet to under-desk cable management. Trying to force flat trays along a curved edge looks sloppy.

10 Freight Delivery Needs Two People Available at Drop-Off

Bow-front executive desks almost always ship via freight, not UPS/FedEx. Freight deliveries are curbside unless you pay for white-glove delivery — meaning the driver leaves it at the curb, and you're responsible for getting it inside. These pieces are too heavy and awkwardly crated for one person. Plan to have at least two people available at the delivery window, or arrange for inside delivery.