
Conference Tables

Q1. What size conference table do I need for my room?

A: Use this calculation: subtract 6 feet from both the room's length and width (3 feet of clearance per side), and that gives you the maximum table footprint. For a 12'x16' room, the maximum table is approximately 6'x10' (72"x120"). Then plan seating using 24" to 30" of table edge per person. A 10-foot table comfortably seats 10 people. Remember to account for the table legs/base, which can affect the usable edge at the ends of rectangular tables.

Q2. How wide should a conference table be?

A: Standard conference table width is 42" to 54", with 48" being the most common. At 42", across-table conversation feels natural and documents or laptops can reach center-table without awkward stretching. At 54" and beyond, the table starts to feel like a formal boardroom — appropriate in some contexts but less so for casual working meetings. Boat-shaped tables are often slightly wider at the center (up to 54") and narrower at the ends (36" to 40").

Q3. Do conference tables come with chairs included?

A: Most conference tables are sold without chairs — table and chair pricing are separate. Some retailers offer bundle pricing for coordinated table-and-chair sets, which can simplify purchasing and ensure the pieces match in height and style. When buying separately, confirm that your chairs' seat height works with your table height — standard is 30" table / 18" to 19" seat height. We can help price both in a single order.

Q4. Can I add power outlets to an existing conference table?

A: Yes — surface-mount and grommet-mounted power modules can be added to most existing conference tables. Grommet-mounted units require cutting a hole (typically 2" to 3" in diameter) in the table surface; surface-mount units clamp or screw to the edge without cutting. Quality aftermarket power modules include 2 to 4 outlets and USB ports and cost \$40 to \$150 depending on features. For a table without existing grommets, surface-mount units are the cleanest no-cut solution.

Q5. What is a modular conference table and do I need one?

A: A modular conference table is composed of two or more sections that connect to form the full table. Benefits: individual sections can be moved through standard doorways (major advantage for upper floors or narrow hallways), the configuration can be adjusted or expanded, and sections can be separated for multi-use room configurations. Trade-offs: seams between sections are visible, assembly requires connection hardware, and the full table is slightly less rigid than a single-piece top. If your room is hard to access or may need reconfiguration, modular is worth the trade-off.

Q6. What is the difference between a laminate and a veneer conference table?

A: Laminate conference tables use a manufactured surface layer (typically high-pressure laminate, HPL) applied to a particleboard or MDF substrate. HPL is extremely durable, scratch-resistant, and easy to maintain — it's the practical workhorse surface. Veneer conference tables use a thin layer of real wood applied over the substrate, giving the appearance of solid wood with better stability. Veneer looks more premium but requires more careful maintenance — no wet rings, prompt spill cleanup. For high-traffic working rooms, laminate is the practical choice; for boardrooms and executive rooms, veneer is typically expected.

Q7. How do I know if a conference table will fit through my building's elevator?

A: Measure your elevator interior dimensions and your hallway widths. For single-piece conference table tops, check the product dimensions for the largest single panel dimension. Most freight elevators accommodate panels up to 80" to 96" with tilting. Standard passenger elevators can be more restrictive. When in doubt, choose a modular table that assembles in the conference room — this is specifically why modular tables exist.

Q8. What height should a conference table be?

A: Standard conference table height is 30", the same as standard desk height, designed to pair with standard seat-height chairs (17" to 19" seat height). Some modern conference rooms use standing-height conference tables at 36" or 42" with bar-height seating for a more dynamic meeting environment — these work well for short, energetic meetings but aren't comfortable for all-day sessions. For standard use, 30" is the right specification.

Q9. Are round conference tables better for certain types of meetings?

A: Round tables are better for collaborative discussions, brainstorming sessions, and small-group meetings where equal participation is the goal. The absence of a 'head position' reduces hierarchical dynamics, which is beneficial in certain meeting cultures. The practical limitation is that round tables don't scale efficiently — a round table seating 8 has a 6-foot diameter and requires roughly the same room space as a rectangular table seating 10 to 12. For groups over 8, rectangular or boat-shaped configurations are more space-efficient.

Q10. How do I prevent scratches on a wood veneer conference table?

A: Use felt pads or a conference table pad during meetings with laptops, notebooks, and writing materials. Avoid placing ceramic mugs directly on the surface — use coasters. Clean with a lightly damp microfiber cloth and dry immediately; standing water is the primary cause of veneer damage. Avoid dragging items across the surface. A custom-cut glass top protector is the most effective protection strategy and allows the veneer to show through while being completely protected from daily scratching.

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