

Benching

1 30" Per Person Is the Right Default Width

60" linear feet (5') per person is the minimum comfortable density. 72" (6') is generous. At 48" per person, it starts to feel cramped for full-day workers. Don't sacrifice comfort for density unless the space absolutely requires it.

2 Back-to-Back Benching Maximizes Density

Back-to-back configurations fit two rows of workers in a footprint only slightly wider than single-sided benching. For open-plan offices, this is the standard density optimization approach.

3 Plan Power Before Furniture Delivery

Electrical coordination for benching is the most common cause of installation delays. Confirm power raceway routing, floor box locations, and electrician scheduling well before furniture delivery day. A benching installation with no power is useless.

4 Acoustic Solutions Are Not Optional

Open benching without acoustic management creates a distracting, complaint-generating environment. Budget for acoustic ceiling elements or sound masking from day one. These are part of the real cost of an open benching program.

5 Sit-Stand Per-Station Motors Beat Whole-Bench Adjustment

For true ergonomic benefit, each station needs its own height adjustment. Whole-bench uniform height is a cost compromise that doesn't actually serve individual users' ergonomic needs. Spec individual motors if ergonomics are a priority.

6 Low Screens Add Ownership Without Closing the Space

A 12-18" privacy screen at each station provides a sense of space ownership and defines personal territory without closing off the open collaborative feel. This is the most popular screen height for contemporary benching programs.

7 Match Base Color to the Flooring or Architecture

Benching base colors (silver, white, black) should coordinate with the room's architecture, flooring, and ceiling. A silver frame on a light wood floor looks clean; the same frame on dark flooring can clash. Make the base color decision with the overall interior design in mind.

8 Day-Use Lockers Pair With Hoteling Benching

If the benching is for unassigned hoteling use, plan a day-use locker program alongside it. Workers without fixed desks need somewhere to store personal items. The locker program is the other half of a hot-desking strategy.

9 Specify Cable Management Trays in the Quote

Under-surface cable management trays are often optional in benching systems. They should be standard in every quote. Exposed cables running across or under bench surfaces look unprofessional and create safety hazards.

10 Include Training in the Rollout

Users moving from private offices or cube farms to open benching need change management and training. Explain the acoustic etiquette expectations, storage solutions, and how to set up their station. A quick onboarding session reduces complaints dramatically.