
Cubicles & Workstations

Q1. What's the difference between cubicles and open-plan workstations?

A: Cubicles use panels (typically 48-66" tall) to create semi-enclosed individual spaces, providing acoustic separation and visual privacy. Open-plan workstations use lower screens (12-42") or no screens at all, emphasizing collaboration and visual connection. Cubicles are better for focused, individual work. Open-plan workstations are better for collaborative, team-oriented work. Most modern offices use a hybrid: a mix of focused cubicle-style spaces and open collaborative zones. Neither extreme works for everyone — understand the work model before recommending.

Q2. What are standard cubicle panel heights and what do they achieve?

A: 42": Low — provides storage and surface definition with minimal visual separation. Standing workers can see over. Modern, open feel. 48-54": Mid-height — seated privacy from neighbors, standing workers can see over. Good balance of openness and focus. 66-72": Full height — standing privacy, strong acoustic separation, approaches the feel of a private office. Older traditional corporate style. For most modern offices, 42-48" panels strike the right balance between collaboration and focus. 66"+ panels feel dated and create a 'maze' effect in the floor plan.

Q3. What components make up a workstation?

A: A complete workstation typically includes: panels (the walls), work surface (desk), corner piece (if L-shaped), overhead storage bin or shelf, file drawer (mobile pedestal or fixed), task chair, and power/data distribution through the panel system. The 'shell' price typically refers to panels and surfaces; components like storage and chairs are often priced separately. When comparing workstation quotes, make sure you're comparing apples to apples — identical component lists.

Q4. How much space does a cubicle take up?

A: Common configurations: 6'x6' (36 sq ft) — compact, efficient, common for clerical roles. 6'x8' (48 sq ft) — comfortable standard for most office workers. 8'x8' (64 sq ft) — spacious, appropriate for senior staff or roles requiring large work surfaces. 8'x10' or larger — near-office territory, often used for supervisors. Plan for traffic aisles of at least 36" (42" for primary aisles). Also add corridor space around the perimeter of the cube farm. Total floor plan consumption is typically 60-90 sq ft per workstation when aisles are included.

Q5. What's the difference between new workstations and remanufactured/refurbished?

A: New workstations are manufactured fresh with current fabrics, finishes, and hardware. Remanufactured workstations are used panels that have been stripped, refinished, reupholstered, and rebuilt to like-new specification — often at 40-60% of new pricing. Refurbished workstations are cleaned and repaired but not fully rebuilt. Remanufactured is often the best value: new aesthetics and function at significantly lower cost. The trade-offs: lead times are sometimes longer for remanufactured (depends on the source), and future expandability requires matching the same used system.
