

# Drafting Chairs & Stools

## 1

### Measure Work Surface Height Before Ordering

This is the critical spec. Confirm your exact surface height in inches, then find a chair whose seat height range covers that surface height with proper elbow-to-surface alignment. Don't guess.

## 2

### Footring Adjustability Matters

A fixed footring is better than no footring, but an adjustable footring is significantly better — it lets you position foot support as your posture changes through the day. Prioritize adjustable footrings for full-day use.

## 3

### Drafting Chairs Are Taller and Less Stable

A taller center of gravity means drafting chairs are inherently less stable than standard task chairs. Confirm the base diameter (wider is more stable), and choose heavier-duty bases for large users or frequent movement.

## 4

### Lumbar Support Is Critical for Forward-Leaning Work

Drafting and detail work often involves leaning forward. Lumbar support that keeps the lower back supported through forward lean is essential. Chairs with adjustable lumbar handle the range of positions better than fixed support.

## 5

### Vinyl for Clinical, Mesh for Commercial

The environment determines the right material. Labs and healthcare need wipeable vinyl. Design studios and architecture firms benefit from mesh ventilation. Choose material based on the actual use environment.

## 6

### Footring Height Affects Posture Significantly

A footring positioned too low forces you to point your toes down, which tensions the calves. Too high forces the knees up, opening hip angle uncomfortably. Ideal position: footring at a height where calves are vertical and thighs are parallel to the floor.

## 7

### Test Arm Height vs. Work Surface

If the chair has arms, confirm they clear the work surface when the chair is pulled in. Arms that hit the underside of the drafting table prevent proper positioning.

## 8

### Big & Tall Options Exist for Drafting Chairs Too

Drafting chairs have the same size spectrum as task chairs. Users over 6'2" or 250 lbs should look for specifically sized options. Standard drafting chairs may not adjust to the necessary height for tall users.

## 9

### Order Extra Casters

Drafting chairs on hard floors use their casters heavily. Keep a spare set of the correct caster type (hard or soft) for replacement — casters on hard floors wear faster than carpet casters.

## 10

### Tilt Mechanism Is Especially Useful at Drafting Height

At elevated work heights, the ability to tilt slightly forward reduces back strain when reaching across the work surface. Look for drafting chairs with seat angle adjustment, not just recline.