

---

## Flat File Cabinets

---

### Q1. What is a flat file cabinet used for?

**A:** Storing large-format, flat documents that can't be folded without damage: blueprints, architectural drawings, engineering plans, maps, fine art prints, and oversized technical documents. Shallow drawers keep documents perfectly flat and protected.

---

### Q2. What size do I need for architectural blueprints?

**A:** Standard architectural drawings are Arch D (24" x 36") or Arch E (36" x 48"). Choose a cabinet with drawer interiors 1"–2" larger than your largest sheet. Most architecture firms use ANSI E or Arch E-rated flat file cabinets.

---

### Q3. Can flat file units be stacked?

**A:** Yes — most are modular. Start with a 5-drawer base and add stack units on top. Two stacks (10 drawers) is the practical maximum for comfortable access without a stool.

---

### Q4. Steel or wood — which is better?

**A:** Steel for durability and value in most professional settings. Wood veneer for art studios, galleries, and executive creative offices. For archival storage, steel is generally safer as wood composites can off-gas acids.

---

### Q5. What does a flat file cabinet cost?

**A:** Commercial steel flat file cabinets (5-drawer, ANSI/Arch E size) run \$300–\$600. Wood veneer units are \$600–\$2,500+. These cabinets last decades — the cost per year is minimal when you buy quality.

---