

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY AN L-SHAPED DESK

An L-shaped desk is one of the most popular workstation choices for both home and commercial offices. Before you order, these ten questions will help you confirm dimensions, construction, and compatibility — so you get the right desk for your space on the first try.

1. What are the overall dimensions, and which measurement is the "return"?

An L-shaped desk has two surfaces: a primary work surface and a shorter secondary surface called the return. Returns typically run 36"–48" long and 24" deep, while the main surface commonly spans 60"–72" wide and 30" deep. Always ask for both measurements separately — the spec sheet total footprint (e.g., 66" x 78") tells you the room claim, but knowing which surface is which helps you orient the desk in a corner or open space correctly before it ships.

2. Is the return left-hand or right-hand, and is it reversible?

Most L-shaped desks are sold in left-hand or right-hand configurations based on where the return sits when you face the primary surface. Some models are reversible — the return can mount on either side — while others are fixed. Confirm this before ordering. Returning freight furniture because the return is on the wrong side costs \$150–\$400 in typical restocking and freight fees.

3. How is the corner junction constructed?

The area where the return attaches to the main surface is considered the seam. The two pieces are connected from the underside of the tops using steel flat brackets and self-tapping wood screws into both of the units. There is usually also a smaller flat bracket or brackets available to use on the vertical seams where the return modesty panel butts to the main surface end panel on the vertical seam. A well-built junction ensures the desk stays solid through years of daily use.

4. What is the actual desktop thickness and surface material?

Thickness matters for durability and for how the desk accepts grommets, monitor mounts, and accessories. Commercial-grade desks run 1" to 1-1/4" thick. Thinner surfaces (5/8"–3/4") found on residential or entry-level commercial units will deflect visibly under monitor arm clamps and heavy equipment. Ask whether the surface is high-pressure laminate (HPL), thermally fused laminate (TFL), melamine, or wood veneer — TFL is most commonly used for durability in active work environments.

5. What are the leg and frame materials, and what is the weight capacity?

Desks with steel-leg frameworks support greater loads, while pin-and-cam construction is used in most wood and laminate offerings. A standard commercial L-desk will generally have a rated capacity of at least 200 lbs. evenly distributed across the surface. Confirming the weight capacity upfront ensures the desk handles your full setup — monitors, accessories, and all.

6. Does the desk have built-in cable management, and where?

Look for a grommet hole (typically 2.5" diameter) in at least two locations — one on the primary surface near the corner, one at the edge nearest your CPU or power strip. Better models generally include two on the main surface and one on the return. Built-in cable management keeps your workspace clean and professional from day one.

7. Can I add a hutch or keyboard tray later?

Ask whether the desk is part of a modular furniture line with compatible accessories. Hutches are generally available for 60", 66", and 72" work surfaces. Keyboard trays are generally available as well in a few different models based on your keying needs. If the desk is a standalone SKU with no coordinating line, your accessory options are limited to third-party hardware that may not align cleanly — so knowing the product line upfront gives you the most flexibility.

8. What is the warranty, and does it cover the laminate surface?

Commercial-grade L-desks from reputable manufacturers generally carry a one-year warranty on the L-desk. A Limited Lifetime Warranty that covers "manufacturer defects" but excludes surface wear is common and does not cover normal wear and tear or patron damage or abuse. Understanding the warranty scope helps you set expectations and choose the right protection level for your environment.

9. What does assembly look like, and are tools included?

Most L-shaped desks ship knocked down (flat in the box) and require 45–90 minutes to assemble. Confirm whether the packaging includes all necessary hardware and whether an Allen wrench (hex key) is the only tool required, or if you need a power drill. If you're furnishing multiple offices, ask about white-glove delivery and installation service — many dealers, including FindOfficeFurniture.com, offer this as an add-on that eliminates the labor question entirely.

10. How long is the lead time, and does it ship via freight or parcel?

L-shaped desks almost always ship via LTL freight, not UPS or FedEx parcel/small package, because of their size. This means you'll schedule a delivery appointment, and the carrier will bring it to your dock or curb — not your office suite. Lead times for in-stock commercial desks run 3–7 business days; custom finishes or laminate colors can add 4–6 weeks. Get the lead time in writing before you finalize your order. Ready to go deeper?

Visit FindOfficeFurniture.com for our complete L-Shaped Desk Buyer's Guide, or call our team directly at 888-719-4960 — we'll help you match dimensions, finish, and lead time to exactly what your space requires.

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