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Personal Storage — More Important Than You Think

Personal storage is one of those office furniture categories that gets overlooked until there's a problem. Staff leave bags and coats piled in corners. Valuable personal items go missing. Hot-desk workers have no secure place to keep their things. Sound familiar?

Whether you're running a corporate office, a gym, a school, a warehouse, or a medical facility, giving people a dedicated, secure space for their belongings improves morale, reduces theft, and keeps your space looking professional. And with the rise of hybrid work and hot-desking, personal storage has become more essential than ever — even in offices that used to rely on assigned desks.

This guide covers the full range of personal storage options: lockers in every style, material, and locking configuration, plus modern solutions like personal storage cubbies for open-office environments.

Locker Types — Single Tier, Double, Box, and More

The first decision is the locker configuration, which determines how many people you're serving per unit of floor space.

Single-Tier (Full-Height) Lockers — One locker per column, typically 60"–72" tall. Each person gets a full-height compartment: plenty of room for coats, bags, full-length clothing, and personal items. This is the standard for gyms, schools, and industrial facilities where people need to store large items. Requires the most floor space per user but provides the most storage volume.

Double-Tier (Two-Tier) Lockers — Two stacked compartments per column, each about 30"–36" tall. Half the floor space per person compared to single-tier. Great for offices, schools, and any environment where users don't need to hang full-length coats. The most popular configuration for commercial offices because it balances capacity with footprint.

Triple-Tier Lockers — Three stacked compartments per column, each about 20"–24" tall. Getting into tighter-per-person storage. Still useful for shorter items: bags, small personal items, a change of shoes. Common in gyms for members who want quick access to small items.

Box Lockers / Multi-Tier Lockers — Four, five, or six compartments per column (sometimes more), each very small (6"–12" tall). Designed for storing small valuables: wallets, phones, keys, tablets. Common in high-security environments, call centers, libraries, and anywhere personal items need to be secured without large storage volumes.

Mixed or Combination Configurations — Some locker banks mix tier heights in the same unit — for example, one full-height section and two half-height sections in the same frame. Useful when you have users with varying storage needs.

Where Lockers Are Used

Lockers aren't just for schools and gyms. Here's where they show up in real commercial environments:

Corporate Offices — With hybrid work and hot-desking, personal lockers for employees are standard. Double-tier lockers for bag and coat storage. Box lockers for valuables. Often placed in dedicated locker rooms, hallways, or near building entrances.

Gyms and Fitness Facilities — Single-tier lockers for full clothing changes. High moisture resistance and ventilation are critical. Day-use lockers with combination locks that reset daily, or long-term assigned lockers with key locks.

Schools and Universities — The traditional full-height hallway locker. Students store books, bags, and gear between classes. Steel construction for durability and abuse resistance.

Warehouses and Manufacturing — Workers need secure storage for street clothes while in uniform. Single-tier lockers are most common. Steel construction is essential — these get banged around. Ventilation is important for work environments with odors.

Healthcare / Medical Facilities — Staff lockers for personal items, uniforms, and equipment. Often require specific ADA compliance and ventilation standards. Antimicrobial finishes available from some manufacturers.

Retail / Hospitality — Employee lockers, often installed in back-of-house areas. Standard double-tier or triple-tier configurations.

Materials — Steel, Plastic, and Laminate/Wood

Steel Lockers — The traditional choice and still the most common. Powder-coated steel is durable, relatively affordable, and handles institutional abuse well. Standard colors are gray, putty, and black, with custom colors available. The main downsides of steel: it can rust in high-moisture environments without proper coating, and it can dent. Look for lockers with a heavy-gauge body (usually 16 or 18 gauge — lower number = thicker and better) and full-perimeter-welded frames.

Plastic / High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Lockers — Virtually maintenance-free. HDPE lockers don't rust, won't absorb moisture, are resistant to bacteria and odors, and clean up easily. The best choice for pools, locker rooms, aquatic facilities, and any high-humidity environment. More expensive than steel upfront but their longevity in wet environments makes them cost-effective. Available in a wide range of colors.

Laminate / Wood Lockers — A high-pressure laminate over a wood composite core. Offers a completely different aesthetic — warm, modern, furniture-like rather than institutional. Popular in upscale gyms, corporate offices, and modern school environments where the locker area should look designed rather than utilitarian. Laminate lockers are not suitable for wet environments. Not as impact-resistant as steel or plastic, but more than adequate for light commercial use.

Locking Options

Security is the whole point of a locker, so choosing the right lock type matters.

Padlock Hasp — The most basic option: a hasp or staple on the door that accepts any standard padlock. The user provides their own padlock. Very flexible, zero cost for the operator, but users can forget their lock and some pry attempts work more easily on hasps than integrated locks.

Built-In Key Lock — A factory-installed lock that comes with two keys. Common for assigned lockers in corporate offices. Keys can be managed by facilities. Rekeyable master key systems are available for larger installations.

Built-In Combination Lock — No keys to lose or manage. A dial or push-button combination. Users set their own combination. Some models use a standard fixed factory combination that can be changed — others use a day-use combination that resets when you close the door. Great for gym day-use lockers.

Electronic / Keypad Lock — Battery-operated keypad or RFID card/fob access. Modern, professional-looking, and eliminates physical key management. Common in high-end fitness facilities and upscale corporate settings. Higher upfront cost but minimal ongoing management.

Coin-Operated Lock — Common in transportation hubs, libraries, and public facilities. Insert a coin (usually returned when you open the locker) to use. Good for transient populations.

Personal Storage Cubbies and Hot-Desking Solutions

Not every personal storage solution needs to be a full locker bank. Modern office environments often call for something that looks less institutional and fits seamlessly into the workspace.

Open Cubbies — Grid-style or stacked open compartments without doors. Great for storing bags in open-plan offices where security isn't the primary concern. Very flexible and easy to reconfigure. Looks intentional rather than industrial.

Locker Credenzas — Furniture-grade locker storage that looks like a credenza or storage unit. Individual compartments with small doors (often with key locks). Fits naturally in a modern office environment. Popular in open office and co-working spaces.

Day-Use Locker Towers — Tall, narrow tower units with 4–8 small compartments, combination locks that reset when the door closes. Employees or visitors pick any open locker for the day. No key management, no assigned locks. Perfect for hot-desking environments.

Under-Desk Personal Storage — Small locking drawer or pedestal that sits under an unassigned desk. An employee checks out a pedestal for the day or keeps their assigned pedestal in a secure rack when not at their station. Increasingly popular in hybrid offices.

Ventilation and ADA Compliance

These details matter in real commercial installations:

Ventilation — Most standard steel lockers have louvers (vented slots) in the doors and/or body for air circulation. This prevents moisture buildup and odor. In wet environments (pools, gyms, locker rooms),

ventilation is critical — look for full-perimeter louver patterns. In dry office environments, minimal venting is fine.

ADA Compliance — If your installation is in a public-facing area, ADA compliance may be required. Key requirements include locker handle heights between 15"–48" from the floor, clear floor space in front of the locker, and accessible routes to locker areas. Check your local building codes — ADA requirements for lockers vary by facility type and jurisdiction.

Bench Recommendations — If you're installing a locker room, don't overlook benches. Sitting down to change shoes or store items makes the locker room functional. Steel-framed lockers are designed to mount easily with standard locker room benches. Ensure you have enough bench clearance (at least 36" of open aisle in front of lockers per ADA guidelines).

Budget Tiers

Under \$100 per compartment — Basic steel lockers, standard tier configurations, single key or padlock lock. Workhorse quality for schools, warehouses, and general commercial use.

\$100–\$200 per compartment — Better-gauge steel, more finish options, electronic or combination lock options, better hardware. This is the sweet spot for most corporate and institutional buyers.

\$200–\$400 per compartment — Premium steel, plastic (HDPE) lockers for wet environments, or laminate lockers for modern aesthetics. Built-in electronic locks in this range.

\$400+ per compartment — High-end HDPE, premium laminate, custom configurations, keyless electronic locks. Top-tier for upscale fitness, hospitality, or corporate environments.

FOF value alert: — We carry commercial-grade lockers at well below retail pricing. Our lowest price guarantee means you're not overpaying, and free shipping on qualifying orders removes the biggest hidden cost from locker purchases (these things are heavy). Call 1.866.409.0202 for volume pricing on large locker projects.

Quick-Buy Checklist

Before you order, confirm:

- Use environment: Office, gym, school, warehouse, medical, or retail?
- Tier configuration: Single, double, triple, box, or mixed?
- Number of users: How many compartments do you need?
- Material: Steel (general), HDPE (wet environments), or laminate (modern look)?
- Locking: Padlock, key, combination, electronic, or coin?
- Ventilation: Required for your environment?
- Moisture: Will lockers be in a wet or humid space?
- ADA compliance: Required for your installation?
- Cubbies vs. lockers: Open cubbies fine or do you need lockable doors?

- Budget: Per-compartment cost at your target tier?
- Quantity: Volume pricing available — ask us.
- Warranty: FOF's free lifetime warranty on qualifying products.