



BUYER'S GUIDE

Mobile Pedestals

Your Complete Guide to Choosing the Right Mobile Pedestal

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What Is a Mobile Pedestal — and Why You Probably Need One

Let's settle this right up front: a mobile pedestal is a small, wheeled storage unit that slides under your desk and rolls out when you need access. It's part file cabinet, part supply drawer, part extra seat — and it might be the hardest-working piece of furniture in your office.

Here's why they're everywhere: open offices and modern workstations often don't have built-in storage. You've got a clean desk surface and maybe some open shelves, but nowhere to lock away your personal files, keep your office supplies organized, or stash your bag. A mobile pedestal solves all of that in one compact unit that takes up almost no extra floor space.

They're particularly valuable in hot-desking environments. An employee brings their personal pedestal (sometimes called a "ped") to whatever desk they're using that day, locks it when they leave, and rolls it to a dedicated parking station at the end of the day. Clean, organized, and secure — even when nobody has an assigned desk.

Even in traditional desk setups, a mobile pedestal adds storage capacity without buying a whole new desk. If your desk didn't come with drawers — or you need more than you have — a pedestal is the answer.

Pedestal Configurations — BBF, BF, and FF Explained

The letters describe what kind of drawers are in the pedestal. Once you understand the shorthand, choosing becomes easy:

BBF (Box/Box/File) — Two small "box" drawers on top and one hanging file drawer on the bottom. This is the most popular configuration by a wide margin, and for good reason. The box drawers handle your daily essentials: pens, notepads, phone charger, stapler, sticky notes. The file drawer handles legal or letter-size hanging files for the documents you need nearby. It's the perfect all-purpose setup for most workers.

BF (Box/File) — One small box drawer on top, one file drawer below. Slightly more compact than BBF. Good if you don't need as many supply drawers and want to maximize file drawer capacity. Also a bit more affordable.

FF (File/File) — Two full-height file drawers. Double the filing capacity but no small supply drawers. Best for people who live in paper-heavy environments and keep their supplies elsewhere (like a shared supply cabinet). Legal or letter configurations available for each drawer.

F (Single File) — Just one deep file drawer, usually found in smaller pedestal units. Common as a companion pedestal that adds file storage when your main pedestal is a BBF. Some compact under-desk models use this configuration.

Which should you get? — For most knowledge workers, BBF is the answer. It handles 90% of what a typical worker needs in their personal workspace. If you're paper-heavy and already have supply storage elsewhere, go FF. If you want something compact and affordable, BF is a solid middle ground.

Steel vs. Laminate Mobile Pedestals

Like most office furniture, mobile pedestals come in two primary construction types. Here's what you need to know:

Steel Mobile Pedestals — Powder-coated steel body with a steel frame. Very durable, holds up to daily movement, bumps, and heavy use. Typically less expensive than laminate. The trade-off is aesthetics — steel pedestals have a more utilitarian, commercial look. They come in standard colors (gray, putty, black, sometimes white). If your office environment is more industrial or you're equipping a large number of workstations cost-effectively, steel is the smart choice.

Laminate Mobile Pedestals — High-pressure laminate over a wood composite core. Much better looking, with a wide range of wood grain and solid color finishes to match your desks and office furniture. The construction is solid for standard office use, though not quite as impact-resistant as steel. If your desks are laminate, matching your pedestals creates a cohesive, professional look. Typically more expensive than steel but the visual upgrade is worth it in client-facing spaces.

Matching your desk: — One of the most important things when buying a pedestal is finish coordination. FOF carries pedestals from multiple manufacturers and can help you match finishes to your existing desks. Even if you can't get an exact match, staying within the same color family (all warm browns or all gray tones) looks intentional and professional.

Cushion Tops — The Bonus Feature Worth Knowing

Here's a feature that sounds like a novelty until you see it in use: **cushion tops**. Some mobile pedestals are available with a removable padded vinyl cushion that sits on top of the unit.

Why does this matter? Because a mobile pedestal at standard desk height (24"–28") is at exactly the right height for an informal perch seat. When someone stops by your desk for a quick conversation, instead of dragging over a chair, they can sit on your pedestal. In open offices and collaborative work environments, this small feature genuinely gets used constantly.

Cushion colors are typically coordinated with office fabric palettes. The cushion usually snaps or clips on and is removable for cleaning or replacement.

Not a must-have feature, but if you're in an environment with frequent informal collaboration, it's worth the small upcharge. Ask us about availability when you order.

Under-Desk Fit — Getting the Dimensions Right

This is the detail that trips people up most often. Mobile pedestals need to fit under your desk without getting in the way of your knees. Here are the measurements that matter:

Standard Pedestal Dimensions: — Most mobile pedestals are approximately 15"–16" wide, 18"–24" deep, and 24"–28" tall. Always check the exact specs against your desk's knee clearance.

Desk Knee Clearance: — Most straight desks have a knee clearance of at least 24"–26" from the floor to the underside of the desktop. A standard pedestal at 24"–26" tall will slide under most desks with just enough clearance. Check your desk specs if you're unsure.

Caster Height: — Casters add 1"–2" to the total pedestal height. Factor this into your clearance calculation. Some pedestals are available with shorter casters or without casters (stationary with glides instead) if height is tight.

Pedestal Width: — Make sure the pedestal will fit in the knee opening under your desk. Most open-leg desks have plenty of width room. Panel-end desks with modesty panels may have narrower knee openings.

Tip: — If you're buying pedestals for multiple users with different desk types, measure the tightest desk first and buy a pedestal that fits that one. If it fits the tightest desk, it'll fit everything else.

Lock Types — Keeping Your Stuff Secure

A mobile pedestal is also a personal security device. Here's what you're choosing from:

Single Key Lock — One lock at the top of the unit that locks all drawers simultaneously. The most common and convenient setup. You turn one key and everything is secured. Usually comes with two keys; replacements are inexpensive and available. Best for general office use.

Individual Drawer Locks — Each drawer has its own lock. More granular control but more keys to manage. Not common in standard pedestals — usually seen in specialized or high-security configurations.

Keyed Alike / Master Key System — For offices buying multiple pedestals, you can often order them keyed alike (all units open with the same key) or set up with a master key system (one master key opens all, individual keys open specific units). Excellent for facilities management. Ask FOF about this option when ordering in quantity.

No Lock — Some basic pedestals are sold without locks. Not recommended for personal storage in shared spaces, but fine for team-shared supply storage that doesn't need to be secured.

Budget Options — Great Pedestals at Every Price Point

Mobile pedestals are one of the best value purchases in office furniture. Here's what to expect:

Under \$150 — Basic steel or laminate pedestals, standard BBF or BF configuration, basic key lock. Lighter construction but functional for moderate daily use. A solid starting point if you're equipping a large number of workstations on a tight budget.

\$150–\$300 — This is the sweet spot. Commercial-grade steel or laminate pedestals with quality drawer slides, full-extension file drawers, positive-lock casters, and single key lock. These pedestals are built to last in real commercial environments and represent excellent value.

\$300–\$500 — Premium construction, better finishes, more configuration options, cushion-top availability. Worth the investment if you want pedestals that will match high-end desk lines and serve for 10+ years.

\$500+ — High-end laminate or designer finishes, specialty configurations, integrated cushion tops. Premium materials throughout. Common in high-end corporate installations.

FOF advantage: — Our lowest price guarantee means you're not leaving money on the table. And free shipping on qualifying orders eliminates the freight costs that make many online furniture purchases less attractive than they appear. Call us at 1.866.409.0202 — we help offices equip workstations every day and we know exactly where the value is.

Quick-Buy Checklist

Lock these down before you order:

- Configuration: BBF (most popular), BF, FF, or single F?
- Material: Steel (durable, affordable) or laminate (better looking, matches your desks)?
- Cushion top: Nice-to-have for collaborative environments?
- Dimensions: Will it fit under your specific desk? Measure knee clearance.
- Casters: Standard rolling casters with locks? (Yes to both)
- Lock type: Single key lock? Keyed alike for multiple units?
- Finish: Matching or coordinating with your existing desk finish?
- Volume: Buying multiple? Ask about keyed-alike systems and volume pricing.
- Budget: Which tier fits your needs?
- Warranty: FOF's free lifetime warranty covers most products.
- Shipping: Free on qualifying orders — factor in the freight savings.