

Mobile Pedestals

Q1. What's a mobile pedestal and why would I need one?

A: A mobile pedestal (also called a rolling pedestal or under-desk pedestal) is a small rolling storage unit designed to fit under a desk. It typically has 2-3 drawers: one or two box drawers for supplies and a deeper file drawer for hanging files. The value: it brings storage directly to the user's workstation without requiring a separate filing cabinet elsewhere. It rolls out from under the desk when you need it and tucks back in when you don't. In open-plan offices, pedestals are often the only private storage each person has.

Q2. What's the difference between a box/box/file and a file/file pedestal?

A: Box/Box/File (BBF) has two shallow box drawers at top (for supplies, pens, notepads) and one deep file drawer at bottom for hanging folders. This is the most popular configuration. File/File (FF) has two file drawers for maximum file storage — useful when the user needs to store a lot of active files at their desk. Choose BBF for general office use; choose FF when files are the primary storage need. Some pedestals also come in box/file (BF) with one box and one file drawer.

Q3. What size hanging files does the file drawer support — letter or legal?

A: Confirm this before ordering. Most standard pedestals support letter-size hanging files (8.5" x 11" documents). Legal-size files (8.5" x 14") require a wider, deeper file drawer and are less common. If your organization uses legal-size documents, specify legal-size pedestal file drawers. Ordering letter-size pedestals when you need legal is a common, frustrating mistake.

Q4. What are the standard dimensions of a mobile pedestal?

A: Typical dimensions: 15-16" wide x 20-24" deep x 24-28" tall. The height is important: the pedestal must fit under your desk's work surface. Standard desk height is 29-30" — a 24-28" pedestal with casters adds a few inches, so verify clearance. Also check the desk's modesty panel — some panel configurations prevent the pedestal from rolling under. Measure your desk before ordering.

Q5. Should I choose locking or non-locking pedestals?

A: In most professional offices, locking pedestals are standard — even if employees don't always lock them, the option is there for sensitive documents and personal items. A lock adds minimal cost and maximum peace of mind. Key-alike options (all pedestals on one key pattern) simplify replacement key management. In very open or casual environments, non-locking is sometimes acceptable. Default to locking for any standard office deployment.

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Q6. What's the difference between a freestanding pedestal and a desk-attached pedestal?

A: Freestanding pedestals are independent units that roll freely and can be repositioned anywhere. Desk-attached pedestals (often called 'attached' or 'fixed' pedestals) are mechanically or physically connected to the desk frame — they're technically part of the desk system. Freestanding pedestals are more flexible and interchangeable across different desks. Attached pedestals provide a more integrated, finished look but can't be easily repositioned or transferred to a different workstation.

Q7. What casters should I look for?

A: Look for casters that match your floor type: hard casters on carpet, soft rubber casters on hard floors (wood, tile, LVT). Using hard casters on hard floors scratches the surface; using soft casters on carpet makes the pedestal hard to roll. Locking casters (at least two) are worth having — they prevent the pedestal from rolling when you don't want it to. Also check the total weight capacity of the casters if you're planning to store heavy files.

Q8. Can I use a mobile pedestal as an additional seat?

A: Yes, if the pedestal is specifically rated for seating (many commercial pedestals are rated for 250+ lbs static load with a cushioned top). Some pedestals come with an upholstered cushion top specifically for sitting. This is useful in small offices where occasional guest seating is needed without a permanent guest chair. Never sit on a pedestal that isn't rated for seating — it can damage the drawer structure. Confirm the weight rating before use.

Q9. How do I match a pedestal to my existing desk system?

A: For a clean, matching look, buy a pedestal from the same manufacturer and product line as your desk. Most major desk systems have coordinating pedestals in matching finishes and edge profiles. If you're buying standalone pedestals for existing desks, match the finish color as closely as possible. The most common finish mismatch is the edge profile — some desks have eased (rounded) edges while some pedestals have sharp edges. Visual consistency matters in professional environments.

Q10. What's the expected lifespan of a commercial mobile pedestal?

A: A commercial-grade mobile pedestal — heavy-gauge steel, quality drawer slides, robust casters — should last 10-15 years with normal use. Residential or entry-level pedestals typically last 3-5 years before the drawer slides fail, casters wear out, or the box warps. The investment in commercial-grade construction pays off over the full lifecycle. Look for full-extension drawer slides (not partial-extension), which are more durable and more convenient than drawers that only open halfway.
