

## 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK

# 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY A SIT-STAND DESK

Sit-stand desks have moved from a niche wellness product to a mainstream office staple — and the market has responded with an enormous range of products at wildly different quality and price points. A poorly specified desk may need replacement sooner mechanically, fall short of your height range, or frustrate users with sluggish performance. These 10 questions help you buy right the first time.

### 1. What type of motor drives the lift, and how many motors does it use?

Single-motor systems are adequate for lighter loads (up to 150 lbs.) and narrower desktops. Dual-motor systems distribute load more evenly, operate more quietly, and are strongly recommended for desktops wider than 60" or load capacities above 150 lbs. Better commercial units use brushless DC motors, which run cooler, last longer, and require less maintenance than brushed motors. Confirm motor count and type before ordering.

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### 2. What is the full height range, and does it cover my team?

A desk that doesn't reach the sitting height of your shortest user — or the standing height of your tallest — fails its primary function. A practical commercial sit-stand desk should offer a height range of approximately 22"–48" from floor to desktop surface. For users under 5'3", confirm the minimum height drops to 22"–23". For users over 6'3", confirm the maximum reaches 48"–50". Some shorter-travel desks marketed as "commercial" only span 28"–46", which excludes both ends of the height spectrum.

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### 3. What is the rated weight capacity?

Weight capacity must account for everything on the desk: monitors (12–25 lbs. each), mounting arms, keyboards, computers, accessories, and paperwork. A dual-monitor setup with a desktop tower can easily reach 60–80 lbs. Commercial sit-stand desks should be rated to a minimum of 200 lbs. of desktop load. Plan around desks rated under 150 lbs. for any professional environment — they will benefit from planning for typical equipment loads and may develop motor strain over time.

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### 4. How fast does the desk move, and how loud is it?

Desk speed is measured in inches per second. A practical commercial unit should transition at 1.5–2.5 inches per second — fast enough to make standing transitions convenient without feeling abrupt. Noise level matters in open-plan offices; quality units operate at 45–50 dB or below. Ask the dealer for decibel ratings if noise is a concern; some consumer-grade units run at 65+ dB, which is disruptive in quiet work environments.

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### 5. Does the desk have programmable height presets?

Programmable presets allow each user to save their sitting and standing heights so transitions require a single button press rather than manual adjustment each time. Commercial units typically offer 3–4 presets. Without presets, users must dial in height by holding the control button and watching the readout — an extra 15–20 seconds that discourages frequent transitions and undermines the health benefit of the desk.

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## 6. What does the warranty cover?

We offer a Free Lifetime Warranty that covers any manufacturer defect. Normal wear and tear, patron abuse, or damage is not covered. For sit-stand desks, confirm whether the motor and actuators are covered separately from the frame. Our Free Lifetime Warranty at [FindOfficeFurniture.com](https://FindOfficeFurniture.com) covers manufacturer defects on the complete unit.

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## 7. What is the desktop surface material and edge thickness?

For sit-stand desks, surface thickness matters because the desktop must accept clamp-mounted monitor arms without cracking or deflecting. Look for a minimum 1" surface thickness for clamp-mount compatibility. Thinner surfaces (5/8"–3/4") common in consumer-grade units may not support monitor arm clamps rated above 20 lbs. Surface material follows the same hierarchy as fixed desks: HPL for durability, veneer for aesthetics, TFL as a mid-range option.

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## 8. How does the frame handle wobble at standing height?

Wobble at maximum height is a known weakness in lower-quality sit-stand frames. Better commercial frames use wider crossbeam spacing and steel box-tube legs (at least 2"x3" cross-section) to minimize lateral sway. Some manufacturers publish stability ratings measured in millimeters of deflection at full extension under a defined side load. If stability is not specified in the product documentation, ask — or test before committing to a large order.

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## 9. Can multiple desks be networked or centrally managed?

For enterprise deployments of 20 or more desks, some manufacturers offer network-connected desk systems that allow IT to monitor usage patterns, track sit-to-stand ratios, and push height-preset updates across a fleet. This is not a requirement for most buyers, but it's worth confirming if your HR or wellness team is tracking activity metrics as part of an ergonomics program.

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## 10. What does installation involve, and can it be done without specialized tools?

Most commercial sit-stand desks arrive partially assembled and require final tabletop attachment, leg adjustment, and cable management installation. Budget 30–60 minutes per desk for experienced assemblers. If you're outfitting 20+ workstations, professional installation is worth pricing — errors in the frame alignment during assembly can affect the desk's long-term leveling accuracy and motor longevity.

Our full Sit-Stand Desk Buyer's Guide at [FindOfficeFurniture.com](https://FindOfficeFurniture.com) covers motor specs, frame comparisons, and surface options across every price tier. Call 888-719-4960 to talk through your specific use case with a specialist.

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