



BUYER'S GUIDE

Storage Cabinets

Your Complete Guide to Choosing the Right Storage Cabinet

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Why Storage Cabinets Are the Unsung Heroes of a Great Office

Nobody gets excited about storage cabinets. Until they don't have one. Then suddenly the office is drowning in paper, supplies are scattered across three desks, and nobody can find the stapler. Sound familiar?

A good storage cabinet is what turns a cluttered office into a functional one. It's not the flashy piece — but it's often the most important piece. The right cabinet keeps your supplies organized, your documents secure, your workspace clean, and your staff from wasting time hunting for things.

At FindOfficeFurniture.com, we've helped thousands of offices find the right cabinet for their setup. This guide breaks down every type, material, and feature so you can buy with confidence — and stop paying retail prices for furniture that's marked up 3x what it should cost.

Types of Storage Cabinets — What's Out There

"Storage cabinet" is a broad category. Here's how to narrow it down:

Supply Cabinets — The standard go-to for most offices. Usually 36" wide, 18" deep, and 72" tall (full height) or 42" tall (half height). Adjustable shelves inside let you configure the space for whatever you're storing — reams of paper, toner cartridges, cleaning supplies, breakroom essentials. Available in steel, laminate, and wood. This is the best-selling type for a reason: it handles everything.

Wardrobe Cabinets — A full-height cabinet (typically 72"+) designed for hanging clothes. Includes an internal hanging rod. Used in offices where staff need to store coats, uniforms, or professional attire. Also great for converting into a general storage cabinet by removing the rod and adding shelves.

Combination Cabinets — Half the cabinet is configured for hanging clothes (with a rod), the other half has shelves. Perfect for a receptionist area or small office where you need one cabinet to do both jobs.

Janitorial / Utility Cabinets — Specifically designed for cleaning supplies, mops, brooms, and similar equipment. Usually have a tall interior to accommodate upright mop handles and a built-in space for bucket storage. Often includes venting slots to reduce odors. Required in commercial buildings that house on-site cleaning staff.

Bookcase / Open Shelf Cabinets — Sometimes categorized separately, but worth mentioning. Open shelves with no doors. Great for items you access frequently and don't need to lock away.

Lateral / Vertical File Cabinets — Technically a subcategory of storage, designed specifically for documents and files. Not covered in depth here (see our dedicated filing guide), but worth knowing they exist as part of the storage ecosystem.

Materials — Steel, Laminate, or Wood?

The material you choose affects durability, appearance, weight, and price. Here's the real breakdown:

Steel Cabinets — The toughest option available. Heavy-gauge cold-rolled steel construction, typically powder-coated in standard colors (putty, gray, black, sometimes white). Steel cabinets dent and scratch before they fail — you'll probably move offices twice before you replace one. They're also the most affordable option in most cases, making them the dominant choice for commercial offices, warehouses, schools, and anywhere durability matters more than aesthetics. One downside: if aesthetics matter (front office, reception area), steel can look industrial.

Laminate Cabinets — A wood composite core with a laminate surface, available in a huge range of wood grain and solid color finishes. Much better looking than steel, easier to match to your other furniture, and still very durable for normal office use. The trade-off: laminate cabinets aren't as tough as steel under heavy abuse. A steel cart ramming a laminate cabinet will cause visible damage. For standard office environments, laminate is a fantastic choice.

Wood Veneer Cabinets — A thin layer of real wood over a wood composite core. Beautiful, warm, and professional. The premium choice for executive offices and reception areas where appearance is paramount. More expensive, requires slightly more care (avoid moisture), and not as resilient as steel. Worth the investment where impression matters.

Our take: — Most offices should default to steel for back-of-house storage (supply rooms, copy rooms, storage closets) and laminate or wood veneer for front-facing areas. This approach maximizes durability where you need it and aesthetics where it counts.

Size Options — Height, Width, and Depth

Storage cabinets don't come in one size. Here's what you'll be choosing between and why each dimension matters:

Height: — The two main categories are full-height (66"–72") and half-height (36"–42"). Full-height cabinets maximize storage capacity per square foot of floor space — strongly recommended when you have vertical space available. Half-height works well when the cabinet needs to double as a counter surface, or in spaces with lower ceilings.

Width: — Standard widths are 30", 36", and 48". The 36" width is the most common and most versatile — it fits through standard doorways and balances storage capacity with footprint. 48" wide cabinets provide more storage but can be harder to position in tight rooms. 30" is compact, good for small closets or tight alcoves.

Depth: — Most supply and storage cabinets are 18" deep. This is deep enough for most stored items but doesn't eat up excessive floor space. Wardrobe cabinets are typically deeper (20"–24") to accommodate hanging clothes.

	Cabinet Type	Typical Size	Best For	
	Full-height supply	36"W x 18"D x 72"H	General commercial storage	

	Cabinet Type	Typical Size	Best For	
	Half-height supply	36"W x 18"D x 42"H	Counter surface + storage	
	Wardrobe	36"W x 22"D x 72"H	Coat/uniform storage	
	Combination	36"W x 22"D x 72"H	Mixed clothes + supplies	
	Janitorial	24"W x 18"D x 72"H	Cleaning equipment	

Locking Options and Security

Not everything stored in an office should be accessible to everyone. Here's how cabinet locking works:

Standard Key Lock — A simple cam lock or three-point lock that secures both doors with a single key. Standard on most steel cabinets. Keys are typically included; replacements are inexpensive. If multiple staff need access, you can have locks re-keyed to a master key.

Three-Point Locking — Found on higher-security steel cabinets. The lock engages at three points (top, middle, bottom) rather than just the center. Makes prying the door open significantly harder. Recommended for offices storing valuables, controlled substances, or sensitive documents.

Keypad/Electronic Lock — Available on premium cabinets. Code-based access means no keys to lose or copy. Useful for high-traffic secure storage. Battery-powered, so no wiring required.

No Lock (Open) — Some supply cabinets are sold without locks — just doors that close and stay closed magnetically or with a simple latch. Fine for common supplies that anyone should access.

Important: — Standard office storage cabinets are NOT fireproof. If you're storing important documents, you need a dedicated fireproof cabinet or safe. See our Fireproof Cabinets guide.

Shelf Configurations and Adjustability

What's inside the cabinet matters as much as the cabinet itself. Here's what to look for in shelving:

Adjustable Shelves — Most quality steel and laminate cabinets include shelves with adjustable positions, typically on 1" or 2" increments. This is a must-have feature. You don't know exactly what you'll store until you start using the cabinet, and the ability to customize shelf heights means the cabinet adapts to your needs.

Shelf Load Capacity — A standard commercial steel shelf should support 100–150 lbs of evenly distributed weight. If you're storing heavy items (reams of paper, heavy equipment), check the shelf rating and look for cabinets with heavier-gauge steel shelves.

Number of Shelves — Standard supply cabinets typically come with 2–4 shelves. You can often buy additional shelves as accessories. More shelves mean smaller vertical compartments — great for organizing smaller items.

Pull-Out Shelves — Available as accessories for some cabinet lines. Great for heavy items you need to slide forward rather than lift out. Nice feature for medical supply rooms and tech storage.

Budget Tiers and Value Picks

Office storage cabinets span a wide price range. Here's what your money gets you:

Under \$150 — Basic steel or laminate cabinets in standard sizes. Lighter gauge steel, fewer finish options, simpler locking. Functional for light commercial use. Great for supply closets where appearance doesn't matter.

\$150–\$350 — This is where most quality commercial purchases land. Heavier-gauge steel, better finish, adjustable shelves, standard key lock, multiple size options. FOF carries a strong selection in this range — these are the cabinets that go into real offices and last for years.

\$350–\$600 — Premium steel construction, three-point locking, wider size options, specialty types (wardrobe, janitorial). Better hardware and finish quality throughout.

\$600+ — Solid wood veneer or specialty custom configurations. Executive-level storage for high-visibility areas.

You're getting the best deal at FOF because of our lowest price guarantee. And free shipping on qualifying orders means no surprise freight charges. Call us at 1.866.409.0202 to talk through your storage needs — we'll help you get the right cabinet the first time.

Quick-Buy Checklist

Run through this before you order:

- Type: Supply, wardrobe, combination, or janitorial?
- Material: Steel (toughest), laminate (best-looking value), or wood veneer (premium)?
- Height: Full-height (72") for max storage or half-height (42") for counter surface?
- Width: 30", 36", or 48" — will it fit through your doorway?
- Locking: Key lock, three-point, electronic, or unlocked?
- Shelves: Adjustable? How many? What's the weight capacity per shelf?
- Quantity: Multiple cabinets? Ask about volume pricing.
- Environment: Back-of-house (use steel) or front-facing (use laminate/veneer)?
- Budget: Which tier fits your needs?
- Warranty: FOF's free lifetime warranty has you covered.
- Shipping: Free on qualifying orders — compare against competitors who charge freight.