

Storage Cabinets

Q1. What's the difference between a storage cabinet and a filing cabinet?

A: Filing cabinets are specifically designed for hanging files and documents — drawers have rails for hanging folders, typically in letter or legal size. Storage cabinets are more versatile: adjustable shelves, open interior space for supplies, binders, equipment, and non-document items. Many offices need both. If you're storing anything other than hanging files — office supplies, electronics, books, equipment — a storage cabinet is the right choice.

Q2. What are standard storage cabinet sizes?

A: Height: 36", 42", 60", 66", and 72" are most common. Width: 30", 36", and 42". Depth: 18" (standard) and 24" (deep). The most popular all-purpose cabinet is 72"H x 36"W x 18"D — it's tall enough to be useful, wide enough for multiple shelf rows, and standard depth for most items. For lower-profile storage under windows or counters, 36" or 42" tall is typical.

Q3. Do storage cabinets need to be secured to the wall?

A: Yes, for any cabinet taller than 42". An unanchored 72" tall storage cabinet with a full load of supplies can tip if a child climbs on it or if it's bumped by a rolling cart. Most commercial storage cabinets include tip restraint hardware for wall anchoring — use it. In earthquake-prone areas, wall anchoring is not optional. It's also required by OSHA safety standards in most commercial environments. Even with light loads, tall cabinets should be anchored.

Q4. What should I look for in cabinet lock quality?

A: Look for a full-width locking bar (3-point lock) rather than a single-point lock at the handle. A 3-point bar locks top, middle, and bottom of both doors simultaneously — much harder to defeat than a single-point lock. Key-alike options (all cabinets on one key) simplify access management for facilities with multiple cabinets. For high-security applications, cylinder lock upgrades with bump-resistant cores are worth specifying.

Q5. What's the weight capacity per shelf?

A: Standard commercial steel storage cabinet shelves typically support 100-150 lbs per shelf. Heavy-duty shelves can handle 200-250 lbs. For storing heavy items like paper reams, binders, or equipment, verify the shelf capacity before ordering. Also look at the number of shelf positions — more adjustment points mean more flexibility as your storage needs change. Particle board shelves are less load-rated than steel shelves.

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Q6. What finish should I choose — powder coat or laminate?

A: Steel storage cabinets with powder coat finish are the commercial standard. Powder coat is durable, resistant to chipping and scratching, and comes in a wide range of colors. Laminate-finish wood cabinets (typically MFC or MDF with laminate) look more like furniture and blend into executive environments better, but they're less durable for heavy daily use. For supply rooms, utility areas, and back-office storage, powder coat steel is the right choice. For executive suites or open-plan offices where aesthetics matter, laminate wood cabinets fit better.

Q7. How do I calculate how much storage I need?

A: Start with what you're storing: count the number of binders, supply boxes, or equipment units. Measure or estimate the cubic footage of the items. A standard 72"H x 36"W x 18"D cabinet provides approximately 5-6 linear feet of shelf space per shelf, times the number of shelves (typically 4-5) = 20-30 linear feet of total storage. For supplies, a rough rule is 1 cabinet per 8-10 office workers for general supply storage. Always buy slightly more than you think you need — storage fills up fast.

Q8. Can I get storage cabinets in a specific color to match our office?

A: Yes. Most commercial steel storage cabinets come in standard colors (gray, putty, black, charcoal) and many lines offer custom color options on larger orders. If you have a specific brand color or interior design requirement, ask about custom powder coat options — typical lead time is 2-4 weeks additional. Wood laminate cabinets offer the most color and finish variety, with dozens of wood grain and solid color options available in standard production.

Q9. What's the difference between a wardrobe cabinet and a storage cabinet?

A: A wardrobe cabinet (also called a locker or personal storage cabinet) typically has a hanging rod for clothing and a shelf at top. Storage cabinets have adjustable shelves throughout with no hanging rod. Some cabinets offer both configurations. If employees need to store coats, uniforms, or personal items, a wardrobe configuration is the right choice. For supplies and equipment, stick with the adjustable-shelf storage configuration.

Q10. Are commercial storage cabinets assembled or ready-to-use?

A: Steel storage cabinets typically ship partially assembled or as a flat pack requiring assembly. Most commercial models can be assembled by 2 people in 30-60 minutes with basic tools. Wood laminate cabinets sometimes ship pre-assembled at a premium freight cost. If you're ordering many cabinets, ask about installation services — it's often available and saves significant time for large deployments. Verify the weight of the assembled unit vs. your elevator capacity before ordering for upper floors.
