
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.
