



BUYER'S GUIDE

Whiteboards & Boards

Your Complete Guide to Choosing the Right Whiteboard, Corkboard, or Display Board

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Boards Make Ideas Happen

There's a reason whiteboards show up in every brainstorming session, every team planning meeting, and every classroom: they turn thinking into visible, shareable ideas. The ability to write something large enough for a room full of people to see, edit it in real time, and erase and start over is fundamental to how good teams work.

But the whiteboard category has grown significantly. Today you've got traditional dry-erase whiteboards, sleek glass boards that double as wall art, magnetic corkboards for posting documents, and combination boards that do it all. You've got wall-mounted and mobile options. You've got boards built for conference rooms, boards designed for classrooms, and compact options for home offices.

This guide breaks it all down so you can buy the right board for the right space at the right price — because at FindOfficeFurniture.com, we want you to get everything you need without overpaying.

Types of Boards — What's Out There

Whiteboards (Dry-Erase Boards) — The classic. A smooth white surface that accepts dry-erase markers and wipes clean. Available in multiple surface materials (more on that below). The foundation of any office board purchase. If someone says "we need a board," they almost certainly mean a whiteboard.

Corkboards / Bulletin Boards — Soft cork or fabric surface that accepts pushpins. Used for posting notes, documents, calendars, photos, and reference materials. Essential in project rooms and HR areas. Available in natural cork, colored fabric, and framed or frameless styles.

Combination Boards — Half whiteboard, half corkboard in a single frame. The pragmatic choice: write notes on one half, pin reference materials on the other. Great for office use where you need both functions without two separate boards.

Chalkboards — The original classroom board. Less common in modern offices (dry-erase is generally preferred for cleanliness) but still used in schools, coffee shops, and for decorative/artistic purposes. Available in traditional green slate and modern black surfaces.

Glass Boards — A modern alternative to traditional whiteboards. Tempered glass surface with a frameless or minimally-framed look. Writes and erases smoothly, available in white, black, and colored versions. The premium aesthetic choice. More expensive than standard whiteboards but increasingly popular in modern offices where appearance matters.

Magnetic Boards — Whiteboards or steel-backed boards with magnetic surfaces. Accept magnets for posting documents, photos, and notes in addition to dry-erase writing. A significant functional upgrade over standard non-magnetic whiteboards for collaborative and planning applications.

Sizes and Mounting

Board sizing is driven by the room it's in and how many people will be using it simultaneously.

Small Boards (17"x23" to 24"x36") — Personal or small-space use. Home office, individual cubicle, or secondary use. Not intended for room-wide visibility.

Medium Boards (36"x48" to 48"x72") — The sweet spot for small conference rooms, private offices, and small classrooms. A 48"x72" (4'x6') board is visible from 15–20 feet away and handles most small group work.

Large Boards (72"x96" and larger) — For larger conference rooms, training rooms, and classrooms. A 72"x96" (6'x8') board dominates a wall in a good way — plenty of writing space for a full team, visible from the back of a mid-size room.

Custom Widths — Some manufacturers offer boards in non-standard widths, including full-wall configurations. Useful for spaces where a standard-width board doesn't work architecturally.

	Board Size	Best Room Size	Approx. Visible Distance	
	24"x36"	Personal / small office	Up to 10 feet	
	36"x48"	Small meetings / home office	Up to 15 feet	
	48"x72"	Conference rooms 8–12 people	Up to 20 feet	
	72"x96"	Training rooms / classrooms	Up to 30 feet	
	Larger	Large auditoriums / lecture halls	30+ feet	

Wall mounting: — Most boards mount via a keyhole bracket system — two mounts on the wall, hang the board. For larger boards, four-corner mounting is more secure. Always anchor into wall studs or use appropriate wall anchors for the board weight. Full-wall boards should be professionally installed.

Height placement: — The writing area should be accessible to all users. The standard guideline is to mount the bottom of the board no lower than 36"–40" from the floor (allowing wheelchair access) and the center at average eye level for standing users (roughly 60"–64" from floor). In classrooms with mixed-age users, lower mounting allows seated students to see better.

Surface Materials — Melamine, Porcelain, Glass, and Painted Steel

The surface material is the most important quality variable in a whiteboard. Get this wrong and you'll be frustrated with ghosting and difficult erasing within months.

Melamine — The entry-level surface material. A melamine resin coating that accepts dry-erase markers. Inexpensive. Fine for light, occasional use. The downside: melamine surfaces start to "ghost" (retain faint marker outlines even after erasing) within 1–3 years of moderate use. For heavy daily use, melamine

disappoints. Best for home offices, personal boards, and very light commercial use.

Painted Steel — A step up from melamine. Steel substrate with a baked enamel or painted finish. Magnetic (accepts magnets). Harder surface than melamine, better durability. However, the painted surface still degrades over time with heavy use. Good mid-range choice for light to moderate commercial use. The magnetic capability is a real advantage over melamine.

Porcelain (Ceramic) Steel — The commercial standard for quality. A porcelain enamel coating fired onto a steel substrate at very high temperatures. The result is a glass-hard, non-porous surface that resists staining, ghosting, and damage far better than melamine or painted steel. Magnetic. The recommended choice for any board that will see daily heavy use — conference rooms, classrooms, training rooms. More expensive upfront but lasts decades without performance degradation. Look for boards with UL-listed porcelain surfaces.

Tempered Glass — The premium option for modern offices. A smooth, non-porous glass surface that writes and erases impeccably, never ghosts, and has a completely different visual aesthetic — sleek, minimal, and elegant. Magnetic (for boards with a steel backer). Higher cost but virtually maintenance-free surface performance. White glass creates a bright, reflective writing surface; black glass creates a dramatic modern look.

Surface selection guide:

- Occasional home/personal use → Melamine
- Moderate office use → Painted steel
- Daily heavy commercial use → Porcelain steel
- Upscale modern office → Tempered glass

Mobile vs. Wall-Mounted Boards

Wall-Mounted — Fixed in place, typically more stable, usually more affordable per square inch, and looks more integrated into the space. The right choice when the board will always be used in one location. Proper mounting into studs provides a solid, stable surface that doesn't shift during use.

Mobile / Rolling Boards — The board is on a wheeled stand (usually with locking casters). Can be moved between rooms, repositioned in a space, or stored when not needed. Invaluable in environments where the board needs to travel — different meeting rooms, classroom reconfiguration, event spaces. Mobile boards can be double-sided for double the writing area. The trade-off: slightly less stable than wall-mounted, and they take up floor space even when not in use.

Easel Boards — Small-to-medium boards mounted on an adjustable easel. Very portable, no installation needed, works indoors and outdoors. Height-adjustable easels accommodate different user heights. The choice for presenters who travel or for small group sessions in ad-hoc spaces.

Partition-Mounted Boards — Boards that mount to the fabric panels of a cubicle or partition system. Useful for adding writing surfaces at individual workstations without wall mounting.

Accessories — Markers, Trays, and Magnets

A board is only as good as the accessories that support it. Don't overlook these:

Dry-Erase Markers — Quality markers make a significant difference. Low-quality markers bleed and smear; quality markers have consistent ink flow and erase cleanly. Stock multiple colors — at minimum black, red, blue, and green for visual variety in presentations. Replace markers regularly — dried-out markers leave poor marks that are harder to erase.

Marker Trays — A tray that mounts along the bottom of the board holds markers and erasers. Most standard boards include a basic tray; premium boards have deeper, more accessible trays. An essential accessory.

Board Erasers — The classic felt eraser for dry-erase surfaces. Magnetic erasers attach to the board when not in use. Replace erasers regularly — an eraser loaded with old marker residue just smears instead of erasing.

Magnets — For magnetic boards, high-strength button magnets are the standard for posting documents. Neodymium magnets are stronger (hold more paper) but more expensive. Colored magnets help with visual organization on planning boards.

Board Cleaner — For heavy-use boards, a dedicated board cleaning spray removes residue that regular erasers miss and helps restore ghosted surfaces. Use it weekly in high-use environments.

Projection Compatibility — If you project onto your whiteboard, make sure the board's surface doesn't cause hotspots or glare. Matte white porcelain and matte finish whiteboards work best as projection surfaces. Glossy glass boards are poor projection surfaces.

Use Cases — Matching Board to Environment

Conference Rooms — Wall-mounted porcelain or glass board, 48"x72" minimum for rooms up to 12 people. Magnetic surface for posting printed materials alongside writing. Consider a combination board if you also need to post documents.

Classrooms and Training Rooms — Larger boards (72"x96"+), porcelain surface for daily heavy use. Multi-board setups or full-wall configurations for lecture environments. Mobile easel boards for breakout group work.

Home Offices — Melamine or painted steel in a smaller size (36"x48") is perfectly adequate. Glass boards are popular for home office aesthetics.

Reception and Common Areas — Glass boards in white or a brand color make a statement. Frameless or minimal-frame designs look modern. Can also be used for visitor sign-in or day's agenda display.

Creative and Marketing Environments — Large, mobile boards for brainstorming sessions. Multiple board types together — whiteboard + corkboard + rolling easel — support different creative workflows simultaneously.

Budget Tiers

Under \$100 — Small melamine boards, entry-level corkboards, basic combination boards. Home office and occasional-use territory. Fine for personal use; not ideal for heavy commercial use.

\$100–\$300 — Quality painted steel or mid-range porcelain boards in 48"x72" sizes. Good commercial-use boards. Mobile easel boards and combination boards in this range.

\$300–\$600 — Full commercial-grade porcelain boards in large sizes, quality mobile boards with heavy-duty stands. These boards are built for daily institutional use and will perform without ghosting for years.

\$600+ — Glass boards, large-format custom boards, premium mobile systems. The investment tier for high-visibility spaces and demanding environments.

FOF carries boards across all tiers at the best prices available. Free shipping on qualifying orders and free lifetime warranty on most products. Call 1.866.409.0202.

Quick-Buy Checklist

Before you order:

- Type: Whiteboard, corkboard, combination, glass board, or chalkboard?
- Surface material: Melamine (light use), painted steel (moderate), porcelain (heavy), glass (premium)?
- Size: Room size confirms which size is needed?
- Mounting: Wall-mounted, mobile/rolling, or easel?
- Magnetic: Required for posting documents with magnets?
- Accessories: Markers, eraser, tray, magnets, cleaner included or separately sourced?
- Use case: Daily heavy institutional use or light personal use?
- Projection compatibility: Will you project onto the board?
- ADA mounting height: Bottom of board accessible from 36"+?
- Budget: Which tier matches your use frequency?
- Warranty: FOF's free lifetime warranty on qualifying products.