



Open Office Layout for 50 Employees

Space Plan

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Furnishing 50 people is a different animal than furnishing 10. At this scale, you're managing a full floor plan — multiple zones, multiple aisle types, egress requirements, and usually a mix of different work settings. The good news: a well-planned 50-person floor hums. The bad news: a poorly planned one creates the kind of noise, crowding, and friction that drives talented people out the door. Here's the full playbook.

What You're Working With

A 50-person open office at standard density requires **5,000–6,000 sq ft** of total floor area. At high density (tech/startup culture), you can fit 50 people in 3,500–4,000 sq ft — but expect noise management to be a major ongoing issue.

Space Type	Allocation per Person	50-Person Total
Workstations	40–55 sq ft	2,000–2,750 sq ft
Primary + secondary aisles	12–18 sq ft	600–900 sq ft
Collaboration + focus rooms	15–25 sq ft	750–1,250 sq ft
Support: storage, print, coffee	8–12 sq ft	400–600 sq ft
Total target range	90–110 sq ft	4,500–5,500 sq ft

The Best Layout

For a 50-person floor in a 60'x85' space (5,100 sq ft): **ten 5-person benching islands** in two zones of five, separated by a central collaboration spine, with enclosed focus rooms along one wall.

Top Pick: Dual Zone Benching + Collaboration Spine + 3 Focus Rooms

- **Ten 5-person benching islands** (60"x30" per seat, 120"x60" island footprint), arranged in two groups of five — one group in each half of the floor
- **Central collaboration spine, 8'–10' wide:** runs across the middle of the floor, breaking the two benching zones; furnish with 2 high-top collaboration tables (48"x30") + 6 bar stools + a whiteboard (48"x36") — serves as team meeting and informal collaboration area
- **Primary circulation aisles, 60" wide:** two main aisles running the long axis of the floor (86"); secondary aisles 44"–48" between benching islands
- **Three enclosed focus rooms, 8'x10' each:** along one long perimeter wall — glass-fronted, 1–2 person occupancy; used for phone calls, focused deep work, or 1:1 meetings
- **Phone/video booths x2:** 30"x36" standing solo booths for calls — positioned near the entry zone where sound from calls is most disruptive to open benching
- **Perimeter storage:** 10 lateral files (42"x20") on the far perimeter wall — one per 5-person team; 10 x 42" = 420" total, fits a 60' (720") wall with space for a printer/copier station

- **Task chairs x50:** ergonomic, mesh back, adjustable — one per workstation
- **Personal pedestals x50:** 15"x22", locking, under-desk

Don't Forget These Clearances

- **Primary aisles — 60" minimum:** At 50 people, two main north-south and east-west aisles should be 60"+ for heavy daily traffic. Code minimum is 44" (ADA) or 36" (secondary), but 60" is the practical standard for a floor of this size.
- **Emergency egress — 44" minimum, two exits:** With 50+ occupants, International Fire Code (IFC) and OSHA both require two clearly separated means of egress. Each exit path must maintain 44" clear width at all points. Map your egress paths before finalizing any furniture.
- **ADA turning circles:** Plan 60"x60" open zones every 100'–150' of floor space — typically at aisle intersections and in the entry lobby zone.
- **Focus room door clearance:** Eight-foot focus rooms opening into main aisles need a 36"–42" door sweep zone in the aisle. If the aisle is 60", a 36" door swing leaves 24" clear — technically non-ADA for continuous egress. Position focus room doors at aisle end-points or widen the local aisle to 78"+ at that point.
- **Acoustic zoning:** Without acoustic treatment, 50 people in an open floor create a noise environment that exceeds OSHA's recommended office noise level (45–55 dB). Plan ceiling-suspended acoustic baffles or panels in the two workstation zones; the collaboration spine can be louder by design.

Other Ways to Set It Up

Option 1: Neighborhood Model — 5 Teams of 10

Divide the floor into five distinct neighborhoods of 10 employees each. Each neighborhood has its own 2-person benching cluster arrangement, team storage (two lateral files), and a small 36" round table for quick team check-ins. Neighborhoods are separated by low acoustic panels (48"–60" tall) that define boundaries without fully enclosing. This model scales easily: add or remove a neighborhood as team sizes change.

Option 2: Activity-Based Working — 40 Workstations for 50 People

For hybrid teams with 75–80% peak occupancy, provide 40 assigned/shared workstations supplemented by: 3 phone booths, 2 6-person huddle rooms, 1 12-person conference room, and 1 large lounge/café area. Total workstation count drops by 20% but overall amenity satisfaction increases significantly. Requires a locker bank — 50 full-height or half-height lockers on the perimeter wall.

Option 3: Classic Rows — Maximum Density When Needed

For companies that need to maximize seat count (call centers, trading floors, operations teams), parallel bench rows 30" deep with 44"–48" aisles between rows can pack 50 seats into 2,000–2,200 sq ft of workstation area. This leaves 2,500–3,000 sq ft for support spaces. The density feels intense but is workable with excellent acoustic ceiling treatment and adequate private spaces for calls.

Your Shopping List

- **5-person benching islands x10**, 60"x30" per seat, integrated power — \$1,200–\$3,500 per island
- **Ergonomic task chairs x50**, mesh back, adjustable lumbar — \$180–\$550 each
- **Mobile pedestals x50 (15"x22")**, 3-drawer, locking — \$110–\$300 each
- **42"x20" lateral files x10**, 2-drawer — \$250–\$550 each
- **High-top collaboration tables x2 (48"x30")** + 6 bar stools — \$300–\$900 per table; \$80–\$220 per stool
- **Focus room tables x3 (48"x24")** + 2 chairs each — \$200–\$500 per table; \$80–\$250 per chair
- **Phone booth units x2** (pod or enclosed booth) — \$2,000–\$8,000 each
- **Optional: ceiling acoustic baffles**, 24"x48" panels — \$60–\$200 each

Estimated complete 50-person open office furniture: \$28,000–\$85,000. Call [888-719-4960](tel:888-719-4960) for a project quote and volume pricing — we work with interior designers and facility managers regularly.

Mistakes That Cost You

- **Skipping egress planning:** At 50 people, egress is not optional — it's code-required and legally enforced. Before any furniture is ordered, walk the floor and confirm two 44"+ egress paths exist from every work area to a building exit.
- **No focus rooms for 50 people:** Open office productivity research consistently shows that the lack of quiet spaces drives the highest satisfaction complaints. Three 8'x10' focus rooms is the minimum for a 50-person floor.
- **Uniform workstation sizes for non-uniform roles:** An engineer who runs multiple monitors needs more desk real estate than a team member on a single laptop. Consider providing different bench depths (30" vs. 36") for different role types within the same benching system.
- **Overlooking HVAC capacity for density:** 50 people generating body heat in a 5,000 sq ft space creates meaningful HVAC load. Confirm with your building engineer that the HVAC system is rated for the planned occupant density before moving in.
- **Buying task chairs in bulk without a trial:** For 50 chairs, the difference between \$200/chair and \$350/chair is \$7,500. But a bad chair at any price costs you in ergonomic complaints and early replacements. Order 3–5 candidate chairs for a 4-week team trial before committing to 50 units.

Quick Checklist

- Total floor plate: 4,500–5,500 sq ft for 50 people at standard density
- Two emergency egress paths: 44"+ clear width each
- Primary aisles: 60" wide; secondary aisles: 44"–48"
- Three or more enclosed focus rooms for private calls/focused work

- Central collaboration spine or lounge area breaking up the workstation zones
- Personal storage: pedestal or locker per employee
- ADA 60" turning circles at aisle intersections
- Acoustic treatment planned (ceiling baffles, desk panels, soft furnishings)
- HVAC capacity confirmed for 50-person occupancy
- Network drops and power floor boxes coordinated with furniture plan

Furnishing a 50-Person Floor? Let's Talk.

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