Desk Buyers Guide

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How to plan your desk.

A desk purchase is a big decision, and we want you to be as informed as possible. We hope this guide will make it easier for you to determine your needs and to get a desk that is exactly what you want.

The first thing to do to get a starting point in your desk design is to decide what you will want to use the desk for. There are various different uses and it depends on your needs and available space what you can do. Three of the most common uses are:

1. Office Work
2. Storage
3. A combination of the above.

So lets look at each of the above and break it down a little better what some of the features should be for each.

1. Office Work

When using the desk for office work, there are lots of features available. The typical standard features would include:

1 - **Laptop pullout tray** (this is a flat tray attached to a flip down front that opens up and holds your laptop. When closed it looks just like a drawer. Your laptop can be stored on the shelf and be plugged in from behind so the only setup you have is to pull out the shelf and open your laptop.)

2 - **Adj. pullout shelves** (one printer pullout, and 1 storage pullout)

1 - **Small drawer** (for pencils and small items. inside height of 3")

1 - **Medium drawer** (for misc. storage. Inside height is typically 5-6" depending on desk height)

1 - **Letter size file drawer**

Depending on the desk type there may be some extra storage available as well. The features listed above will take care of all your basic needs.

Things to decide before selecting optional features:
1. How many computers will be used in the desk. If more than one, will both computers need to be stored on a laptop tray
2. If any computers need to be stored on a laptop tray
3. If you will have letter or legal size files
4. If a printer will be stored in the desk
5. If paper and ink and miscellaneous small items be stored on the pullout shelves.

Recommended feature changes depending on your needs. (see features and options page for more details)
1. If you will have two computers, you might consider having two laptop trays. The downside to this is you lose your small drawer, as it gets converted to the second laptop tray.

2. If you would prefer to not have your laptop stored in the desk, the laptop tray can be converted to a drawer. So now you have 2 small drawers for more storage.

3. The file drawer can be built to either accommodate letter size or legal size files. The standard is letter size.

4. The desk comes standard with a pullout, adjustable printer shelf. This allows you to setup and plug in your printer inside the cabinet. When you are ready to use it, you can open the door, pull it out, and print. When finished, just close back up, push the shelf back in and you are done.

5. The standard desk also includes a second pullout shelf for additional storage. If you are storing paper and other small items, you might consider switching this shelf a pullout drawer. The pullout drawer will have 3" high sides, and will still be adjustable like the shelf. The sides will help in keeping small stuff from falling off inside the cabinet.

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2. Storage

If you are looking for a storage cabinet, there are several different ways to set it up, depending on what you will store.

Things to decide before selecting features
1. What items will you be storing in this storage cabinet? Some examples would be:
- Cookware, pots and pans
- Sewing machine and supplies
- General common item storage
- Any other specialty item storage

2. If the items you are storing will need to be accessed often.

Recommended features depending on your needs.
1. If you are storing larger items or cookware, you might consider having no drawers, and having full height doors with adjustable pullout drawers inside. With adjustable drawers, you will be able fill one drawer and bring the next one right down on top of it. This maximizes storage space and lets you better utilize your space.

If you are storing special large items in combination with cookware or other small items, you might have the same setup as above, with no drawers, full height doors and adjustable pullouts, only we would use a pullout shelf for large, stand alone items, and then use pullout drawer for the smaller items.

You can also have adjustable shelves that do not pull out. These will give you slightly more shelf room, but are not quite as easy to access. The adjustable shelf is more economical as well.

Standard drawers are also a great option if you have lots of smaller items to store, They are a little easier to access than your pullout drawers, since you don't have to open doors to get to them. These drawers can be made to any height combination needed.

2. If the items you are storing will not be accessed often, you may consider just using all adjustable shelves. These shelves do not pull out, they just adjust up and down. They will give you slightly more room than the pullout shelves will, and are more economical.

3. Desk/Storage Combination

Desk/Storage Combination:
If you are looking the best of both worlds, you can pick and choose from the features explained above. A typical setup would be to have one side with a file drawer, printer shelf and computer tray, and the other side with pullout drawers, adjustable shelves or all standard drawers for storage. To have the file drawer, printer shelf and computer tray all in one cabinet will depend on the available space height and the size of the printer.

Things to decide before selecting features:
1. What items will you be storing in this storage cabinet
2. If the items you are storing will need to be accessed often
3. Printer size
4. If file drawer is needed

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What to look for when buying a desk

Differences between a cheap desk and a high quality desk

	Description	Cheap Desk	High Quality Desk
1	**Cabinet Face Frame**	Pressed wood or low grade hardwood	**Highest grade hardwood**
2	**Cabinet Finished End Panels**	1/4" thick paneling ends	**3/4" Thick hardwood plywood**
3	**Countertop**	Veneer plywood top with hardwood edge	**Solid 3/4" thick hardwood or Solid Surface**
4	**Wood Color**	Standard basic color	**standard and custom colors**
5	**Doors and Drawer Fronts**	Standard basic profiles	**Exact match or matched as close as possible to existing**
6	**Door Hinges**	face overlay non adjustable	**Hidden 6 way adjustable**
7	**Drawer Slides**	3/4" extension single wheel	**Full Extension ball bearing 100# rating**
8	**Hardware**	Standard basic style	**Exact match or matched as close as possible to existing**
9	**Pullout Adjustable Shelves**	Usually not available	**Pullout and adjustable combination**
10	**Adjustable Shelves**	Usually not available	**Standard**
11	**Service**	As is	**Phone/Email Service, Faulty Part Replacement.**

1. Cabinet Face Frames

Cheap Desk

The face frames of cheap desk will usually be a pressed fiber wood with a wood colored paper wrapped over it, or a low grade hardwood. The fiber wood material is not very strong and over time, the joints of the frame will pull apart. It will also swell if it gets wet and the paper covering will peel over time. The low grade hardwood is more likely to have cracks and discoloring in it due to lower grading standards of the lumber.

Another good thing to check is how the joints are assembled and if there are any visible gaps or cracks along the joint lines. This can indicate that no glue was used and only screws or staples were used.

High Quality Desk

A high quality desk frame will be made solid high grade hardwood material, and will have even coloring and no cracks throughout.

Good joints in the frame will have no gaps or cracks along the joint lines, and the joint will be glued and typically screwed together using 2 screws with a hidden pocket hole joint. This joint is hidden and can only be seen from the inside of the cabinet.

2. Cabinet End Panels

Cheap Desk

The end panels on cheaper desks are typically made of 1/4" paneling and have cleats glued on the back for rigidity. This type of end panel is not as solid or as rigid as a thicker end panel, and will flex and twist a lot easier. This type of end panel can not be attached to the face frame the same way as a thicker end, usually resulting in a much more visible joint line.

High Quality Desk

These end panels are made with 3/4" thick cabinet grade hardwood plywood. The reason that solid hardwood is not used for end panels is when hardwood is glued up, is not very stable, and will warp and twist easily if it is not secured to something. It is also a lot heavier, so that is why it is a standard in the cabinet industry to use what is called hardwood plywood, which is a stable core material covered with a hardwood veneer. When the wood is finished, you can not see a difference between the two, and it is a lot more stable and will not move.

Attaching a 3/4" end to the face frame is typically done with glue and screws. The panel is attached so after the glue has dried, the frame is flush sanded with the panel to get a smooth joint that is not very visible.

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3. Countertops

Cheap Desk
The wood tops are typically made using a 3/4" plywood and glueing a hardwood strip on the exposed edges. While this does not look to bad, The plywood can dent and show the core material underneath, which is typically a different color.

Usually on a cheap desk, there is no option for a Solid Surface top.

High Quality Desk
These wood tops are 3/4" solid hardwood tops and have no plywood at all. These tops are a little heavier, and will withstand lots of abuse. Another nice thing is, after years of use, these tops can be refinished to remove all the dents and scratches and make it look like new again.

On more expensive desks, you will typically have the option of a Solid Surface top.

4. Wood Color and Species

Cheap Desk
Typically wood colors and species on a cheap desk are limited to a few standard colors and species, and don't have the option of matching your existing wood and color. This can be frustrating for anyone looking to buy a desk that looks like it came from the factory originally.

High Quality Desk
These desks are typically built in the same species of wood used throughout your coach, and offer a few wood colors as a starting point, then also have an option for a custom color match.

5. Doors and Drawer Fronts

Cheap Desk
Doors and drawer fronts are usually built in standard, generic profiles, and don't have the option to match your existing style.

High Quality Desk
These doors and drawer fronts are as a standard built to match existing doors and drawer fronts as close as possible. If an exact match is required, there is an option to have an exact match made. Additional charges for tooling will typically apply.

6. Hinges

Cheap Desk
The hinges on a cheap desk are typically standard overlay face frame hinges. These types of hinges are pretty strong, but are usually not adjustable, and are visible from the outside of the cabinetry.

High Quality Desk
These hinges are usually a high quality hidden hinge that has 6 way adjustment. This makes it easy to readjust the doors as they move over time. The high quality desk will have these hinges as a standard or an option.

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7. Drawer Slides

Cheap Desk
Drawer slides are a pretty important part of a desk. The cheaper slides willl be a 3/4 extension slide with a double wheel roller. This type of slide does not fully open the drawer, and the rollers tend to fail over time, making it hard to open the drawer.

High Quality Desk
The slides used in high quality desks are full extension, ball bearing, 100# rating slides. These slides are side mounted, and will bring the drawer out fully. They hold up very well over time and glide very smoothly.

8. Hardware

Cheap Desk
Hardware will typically be a generic style and color of hardware

High Quality Desk
Hardware will be matched to existing as close as possible, in style and in color.

9. Pullout Adjustable Shelves

Cheap Desk
Pullout shelving in a cheap desk is usually not an option, and if it is, it is not adjustable.

High Quality Desk
The pullout adjustable shelves are shelves mounted on full extension drawers slides that pull out of the cabinet, and have the ability to be adjusted up and down. This is a very nice feature, as it allows you to fully utilize the space you have in the cabinet. It also is very easy to add shelves as needed.

10. Adjustable Shelves

Cheap Desk
Adjustable shelves in a cheap desk are usually built of thinner material, with cleats underneath to strengthen it. The holes are typically not full height of the opening, limiting the adjustability to a few inches up or down.

High Quality Desk
These adjustable shelves are built of 3/4" thick material, and have a lip on the front and back (if needed) to keep things from falling off. The holes go full height of the opening allowing for maximum flexibility in adjustment, and the opportunity to add more shelves if needed.

11. Service

Cheap Desk
Typically once you buy a cheap desk, you are on your own. If something fails, it is up to you to fix it.

High Quality Desk
Service is everything when buying something, and the service offered by Wood Design RV is second to none. We are available by phone or email to help with any problems with install and repairs if needed. Or, if you are in our area, we would be glad to help in person on fixing any problems you have. We want you to be happy and satisfied, and we strive hard to do that. If it should happen that any of our hardware would fail, and it is deemed to be a product fault, we will replace it for you.

Order Process for Desks or Custom Cabinets

What is the process to place an order for a desk or custom cabinet?

Listed below is a step by step process of ordering a desk or custom cabinet from Wood Design RV Interiors. The bold listings are what you, the customer, would need to do, and the rest is taken care of by us.

1. **Determine what your primary use will be**
2. **Determine what components you want to store in the desk**
3. **Measure space available to see what will fit**
4. **Determine desk type**
5. **Send measurements and info to Wood Design RV**
6. We will send an acknowledgment of receipt
7. We will send an estimate
8. **You need to approve the estimate**
9. We will send an invoice for a down payment
10. We will draw a print
11. **You will need to check print for accuracy and revisions**
12. We will revise print and estimate if needed
13. **You will need to approve print and final estimate**
14. We will schedule time for install or shipping
15. We will build desk and have it ready for you at the appropriate time
16. We will install or ship depending what you want.
17. We will send invoice for balance due.
18. We will ship and should arrive within 6-10 business days
19. We will follow up with you to see if all went well and you are satisfied.

Desk Buyers Guide

Which type of desk should I choose?

Here at Wood Design RV Interiors, we offer a few different desk styles to fit your needs. There are various differences between each style, and which one to choose will depend on your needs and layout. Here are the different options:

1. Classic Desk
2. Executive Desk
3. Angle Desk
4. Custom Desk

Lets explore the differences........

1. Classic Desk

The Classic Desk is the starting point of where most desks are based off of. This desk offers all the features needed for full office work or storage, and basically fills up unused space in the dinette area. It is made to fit with a freestanding table. A freestanding table has two legs or a pedestal and can be pulled out and moved anywhere. This desk can be made to fit existing tables, or you can buy a new one.

   This desk and table combination is well suited for having a full featured office or storage area, and the table pulls out for sitting on all sides. The table with sit in a kneehole-type space and when pushed in, will still allow two people to sit at it and use it. There is still room for two chairs in front of the desk.

Desk Features:
1 - Laptop pullout tray (this is a flat tray attached to a flip down front that opens up and holds your laptop. When closed it looks just like a drawer. Your laptop can be stored on the shelf and be plugged in from behind so the only setup you have is to pull out the shelf and open your laptop.)
2 - Adj. pullout shelves (one printer pullout, and 1 storage pullout)
1 - Small drawer (for pencils and small items. inside height of 3")
1 - Medium drawer (for misc. storage. Inside height is typically 5-6" depending on desk height)
1 - Letter size file drawer

Pros:
*   Full Featured
*   Easy to Install
*   Does not add a lot of weight
*   Customizable
*   Economical

Cons:
*   Has no storage underneath table
*   Table has a leg that can get in the way of feet

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Which type of desk should I choose?

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2. Executive Desk

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The Executive Desk offers all the features found in the Classic Desk plus some extra benefits. It is also designed to fit in the dinette area of the motor home, and made to fit with a floating or legless table. This type of table is mounted to sturdy metal L brackets that attach to bracing built into the cabinet. This offers various benefits such as extra storage underneath the table, and there is no leg to get in the way of your feet. This desk can also be built to fit existing tables that are the floating or legless style.

This desk and table combination offers more storage than the Classic Desk. The table has a leaf and will pull out and open up to accommodate four people. This table will still allow two people to sit at it and use it when pushed in.

Desk Features:
1 - Laptop pullout tray (this is a flat tray attached to a flip down front that opens up and holds your laptop. When closed it looks just like a drawer. Your laptop can be stored on the shelf and be plugged in from behind so the only setup you have is to pull out the shelf and open your laptop.)
2 - Adj. pullout shelves (one printer pullout, and 1 storage pullout)
1 - Small drawer (for pencils and small items. inside height of 3")
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1 - Letter size file drawer

Pros:
• Full Featured
• Fits in most existing dinette spaces
• Has extra storage underneath table
• Table has no leg restriction
• Table slides out with leaf
• Customizable

Cons:
• Table can not be move out for all side seating
• A little more expensive than the Classic Desk
• A little harder to install

Photo (shown with optional table)

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Which type of desk should I choose?

3. Angle Desk

The Angle Desk works well to replace an extra sofa or chair space. It adds a very nice look to a coach, and has lots of office features. It has a little more foot space when working on a computer due to the angled design. It has extra file storage, and can be customized in a lot of different ways.

Desk Features:
1 - Laptop pullout tray (this is a flat tray attached to a flip down front that opens up and holds your laptop. When closed it looks just like a drawer. Your laptop can be stored on the shelf and be plugged in from behind so the only setup you have is to pull out the shelf and open your laptop.)
2 - Adj. pullout shelves (one printer pullout, and 1 storage pullout)
2 - Small drawers (for pencils and small items. inside height of 3")
2 - Letter size file drawers

Pros:
• Full Featured
• Angled design gives you more side space when working
• Has extra deep storage space
• Has two file drawers

Cons:
• Is not compatible with a dinette table
• Takes up a little more room due to angled design.

Photo (may show options different from standard)

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Which type of desk should I choose?

The Custom Desk opens up a new world of possibilites. You can pick and choose from the features listed for the other desks, as well as custom designed spaces for whatever you need to accommodate. Some of the custom options include slideout tables, breadboards, flip up tables, flip up counter extensions, hidden monitor lifts, wastebasket pullouts, speaker integrations, and much more. You are limited only by your imagination. Call or email us to discuss your needs and we can help you build the desk of your dreams.

Custom Desk

Custom printer drawer

Flipup Top Extension

Pullout Table