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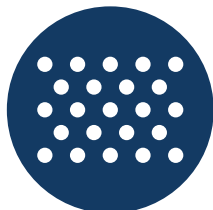
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# Folding Chairs Buying Guide



Folding chairs are often the go-to chairs for spaces that require temporary seating – think outdoor classrooms, school auditoriums, conference rooms, banquet halls or other event spaces. A folding chair's lightweight frame, availability of different styles and ability to fold and unfold for efficient set up and storage makes it the obvious choice for special events or large gatherings of people. Here's a simple guide to choosing folding chairs that best meet your needs.

## School Outfitters Tips



Ventilated seat backs help keep users cool and comfortable over extended periods of time. Consider folding chairs with ventilated backs for outdoor events or spaces without AC.



For an event that requires ample workspace, pair your folding chairs with durable **folding tables** for a setup that's as functional as it is easy.



**Tablet arm folding chairs** offer even more versatility by providing a space for books and devices. Consider chairs with tablet arms for lecture halls or conference rooms.



Look for chairs with double hinges – these are small metal bars that help your chair unfold and stay in place. Two hinges on each side equal better durability.

## Folding Chair Types



### Steel Folding Chairs

Steel folding chairs are super durable and more affordable than upholstered folding chairs. Be sure to consider the gauge, or the thickness, of the steel frame – the lower the gauge, the stronger the steel and usually the higher the price of the chair. Most commercial folding chairs are constructed with 18- to 20-gauge steel. It is more affordable in the long run to invest in stronger folding chairs than it is to replace weaker folding chairs every few years.

[Shop Steel Folding Chairs](#)



### Upholstered Folding Chairs

Folding chairs are available in fabric or vinyl upholstery. Fabric upholstery is the most formal looking seat material. Many people prefer fabric upholstery because it is softer than vinyl and causes less “sweating”. However, vinyl upholstery is typically less expensive and quite a bit easier to keep clean. As such, fabric upholstered chairs are often found in formal event spaces like conference rooms or lecture halls, while vinyl upholstered chairs are used in dining spaces like banquet rooms or cafeterias.

[Shop Upholstered Folding Chairs](#)



### Plastic Folding Chairs

Plastic folding chairs are a great option for outdoor events. Plastic chairs weigh less than steel chairs and therefore are a bit easier to fold and stack. Plus, they’re a cinch to wipe clean and available in a variety of colors. Pro tip: Look for an inverted cross brace on the back legs. This brace is designed to keep your folding chair from sinking into the grass or mud. Cross braces are the metal bars that connect the front or back legs to each other.

[Shop Plastic Folding Chairs](#)



### Nesting Chairs

Nesting chairs have seats that flip up – this allows the chairs to “nest together” horizontally for efficient storage. Unlike traditional folding chairs, the legs on a nesting chair do not fold and unfold. Plus, they’re typically equipped with casters. Nesting chairs are a great option for fast-paced learning environments that demand flexibility.

[Shop Nesting Chairs](#)



### Folding Chair Dollies

A durable chair dolly or truck will make it easy to store and transport your folding chairs as needed. Universal dollies can accommodate almost any type of folding chair, while other dollies are designed to fit specific models. Be sure to check for compatibility before making a purchase.

[Shop Folding Chair Dollies](#)

## Certifications



### GREENGUARD Certified

Products that are GREENGUARD Certified meet the stringent standards for low chemical emissions set by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEI), an industry independent organization that aims to improve indoor air quality. Products that are GREENGUARD Certified reduce people's exposure to chemicals and other pollutants, improving overall health. GREENGUARD Certification is GEI's first certification offering.



### **GREENGUARD Gold Certified**

GREENGUARD Gold Certification is GEI's second tier of certification. Products that are GREENGUARD Gold Certified meet an even lower level of chemical emissions plus health-based criteria for additional chemicals. GREENGUARD Gold products meet in the indoor air quality needs of sensitive environments like schools, daycares and health care facilities.



### **BIFMA Certified**

The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association, or BIFMA, certification is a voluntary standard that a product has met stringent third-party sustainability requirements. This certification ensures the product is durable, has longevity and promotes a healthy work environment.