



Stool

Buying Guide



Movement in the classroom has many educational benefits including longer attention span, lowered restlessness, improved engagement and higher academic performance. Stools are designed to encourage movement. Many styles have low or no backs and no arms, allowing students to easily turn in their seats. Other styles promote movement while seated like rocking or wobbling. Still others adjust in height and swivel, adding even more flexibility. To help determine the best stool for your learning environment, School Outfitters has created this helpful buying guide.

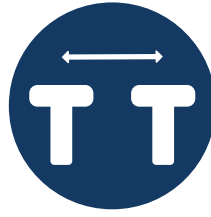
Stool Sizing Chart



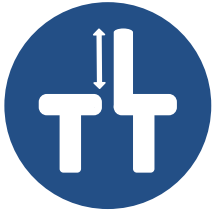
School Outfitters Tips



Ensure nine to 13 inches of space between the stool seat and the underside of the counter or table.



We recommend leaving 26 to 30 inches between the centers of each stool for accessibility.



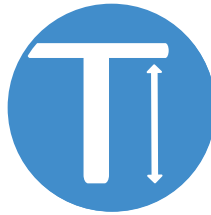
A backless stool has the lowest height options, while a full-back stool has the tallest.



Active learning stools, or wobble stools, are not recommended for young students due to their wide range of motion



A stool with armrests should have arms low enough to fit under the counter or table.



Confirm table heights when shopping for stools to ensure the right style is purchased.

Stool Types



Wobble Stool

Stools that wobble or rock in every direction are sometimes referred to as active learning stools, wobble chairs or wobble stools. All have a gently rounded base, allowing it to roll with a student's natural movement while still ensuring stability and comfort. Many styles have lighter weights making them easier for students to move for group work. This type of seating promotes good posture and a strong core.

[Shop Wobble Stools](#)



Science Lab Stool

Science labs are often equipped with counter-height workstations to easier facilitate experiments and collaboration. Science lab stools accommodate this higher workspace, plus allow for quick movement during chemical spills. Most come equipped with smooth Masonite seats, a dense and highly durable hardwood. The height of a lab stool ranges between 18 and 24 inches.

[Shop Science Lab Stools](#)



Drafting Stool

Drawing, writing and sketching require the use of modified furniture due to the amount of time spent sitting. For comfort and support, drafting stools are commonly used. These stools are modified office chairs that allow for height and seat adjustments, have attached footrests, optional armrests, plus tilting and swivel capabilities.

[Shop Drafting Stools](#)



Metal Stool

Stools made from metal can last a lifetime. They are exceptionally durable and hold up to daily wear and tear. Metal stools are also flame, weather and scratch resistant. Depending on the style, the stool seat can be made of Masonite, padded and covered in vinyl, plastic, wood or metal. Other optional features include adjustable heights and back rests.

[Shop Metal Stools](#)



Mobile Stool

Stools that come equipped with wheels add even more flexibility to a learning space. Students and teachers can easily maneuver as needed. This is especially helpful during experiments, in makerspaces and in other collaborative learning environments. Other mobile stool features include adjustable heights, back rests, foot rings, padded seats and armrests.

[Shop Mobile Stools](#)



Stack Stool

Stack stools have many benefits. Stack stools are typically lightweight to make rearranging and cleaning easy and require less space when in use and in storage. Stack stools are available in a variety of styles; some have perforated backs for breathability, wheels or colorful plastic seats. The style chosen will determine how many stools can be stacked together.

[Shop Stack Stools](#)



Plastic Stool

Plastic stools can be made entirely out of plastic or have the seat itself made of plastic with a metal frame. Plastic stools are typically lightweight and are often suitable for indoor and outdoor use. The plastic most used is polypropylene, a tough and rigid synthetic resin. It has exceptional durability, allowing it to accommodate a higher weight capacity.

[Shop Plastic Stools](#)



Upholstered Stool

Upholstered stools have seats covered by vinyl, mesh or fabric, with padding that can be more than three inches thick. Vinyl upholstery resists moisture and food particles, is easy to clean and highly durable. Mesh material allows air to circulate, unlike fabric or leather, which tend to trap heat and cause discomfort. Fabric has a variety of patterns and colors to choose from, allowing for more customization.

[**Shop Upholstered Stools**](#)



Bar Height Stool

The phrases “café” and “counter height” are used interchangeably with “bar height” when it comes to seating and tables, however there are notable differences. Bar height tables range between 41 and 46 inches and both café and counter height tables range between 34 and 39 inches. Bar stools measure 30 to 36 inches, while café and counter height stools measure 24 to 29 inches. Remember to ensure a gap of nine to 13 inches for leg space.

[**Shop Bar Height Stools**](#)



Wood Stool

Stools constructed from wood have a more classic appearance that can vary in color depending on the tree and finish. Wood stools can vary greatly in appearance; some have upholstered seats, metal legs, round or square seats or backs. Other benefits of a wood stool include durability, longevity and ease of maintenance.

[**Shop Wood Stools**](#)



Foot Stool & Step Stool

Stools that sit low to the floor are used in two ways – as a footrest while seated or as a step to reach high objects. Footrests are called foot stools and elevate the feet for comfort. Step stools typically have one or two built-in steps and help young students reach the sink, a whiteboard or a locker. Both foot stools and step stools are designed to be slip resistant.

[**Shop Foot Stools & Step Stools**](#)



Adjustable Stool

Stools that adjust in height come in a variety of styles to suit the task. It is a common feature found in lab stools, medical stools, drafting stools and sit-to-stand stools. Depending on the design, adjustable stools can be equipped with backs, foot rings, wobble bottoms and wheels.

[**Shop Adjustable Stools**](#)

Greenguard & BIFMA Certifications



GREENGUARD Certified Stools

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 Stools

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 the indoor air quality needs of sensitive environments like schools, daycares and health care facilities.



BIFMA Certified Stools

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.