

Having a small desk can make setting up your PC feel tricky, especially when you want to keep your workspace comfortable and ergonomic. If you're asking yourself "PC on floor vs desk? Should I use an under desk mount? How do I manage cable reach without a mess?" — you're not alone. The good news is you don't need to sacrifice ergonomics or style to make the most of limited space.

In this post, we'll explore practical solutions grounded in actual gear you're using today — rather than hypothetical future upgrades — and dive into the best design tips for small desk setups. We'll cover key factors including desk depth, viewing distance, chair clearance, and clever mounting tools like monitor arms and wall shelves. Drawing insights from sources like [DimensionzHub.com](https://dimensionzhub.com), the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors, and MRQ, let's get into where to place your PC efficiently and comfortably.

Start With What You Actually Use Every Day

Before rearranging your entire workspace, ask yourself: *what do I actually use every day?* That desktop tower you bought with grand plans for dual GPUs might be gathering dust in the corner. Prioritize the gear you regularly interact with. This principle, emphasized by [DimensionzHub.com](https://dimensionzhub.com), prevents you from overcrowding your desk with gear "just in case" and dimensionzhub.com helps maintain an ergonomic and clutter-free setup.

For example:

- If you mainly use a laptop but keep a desktop tower for occasional heavy tasks, it might make sense to store the tower under your desk or even on a dedicated shelf.
- If your tower is your primary machine, consider where you can place it without compromising chair clearance and leg space.
- Keep peripherals like keyboards, mouse, and primary monitor on the desk to ensure comfort and reduce repetitive strain.

Desk Depth and Viewing Distance: What Matters Most

One of the biggest ergonomic fails in small desks is choosing a shallow desk that can't accommodate proper viewing distance. The Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors recommends a viewing distance of about 20-30 inches (50-75 cm) from your eyes to the monitor screen to minimize eye strain. For most people, that requires a desk depth of at least 24" (60 cm), though deeper is better—especially if your monitors are larger than 24 inches.

Desk Depth (inches)	Recommended Viewing Distance (inches)	Notes
18–22	18–24	Small desks, tends to feel cramped
24–30	20–30	Optimal for most 24-inch monitors
30+	25–35	Ideal for dual or ultrawide monitors

If your desk is shallow, focus on adjusting your monitor placement using a **monitor arm**. This tool allows you to pull the screen closer or push it back as needed without sacrificing surface space. You can find reliable and affordable options on MRQ.

PC On Floor vs Desk: Pros and Cons

Where to put your PC tower is the million-dollar question, especially when desk space is limited. Let's break down the advantages and pitfalls of putting your PC on the floor compared to having it on your desk.

PC on Desk

- **Pros:** Easy access for plugging/unplugging, dust-free elevated position, quick maintenance
- **Cons:** Takes up valuable desk space, can reduce legroom, adds clutter when cables aren't managed well

PC on Floor

- **Pros:** Frees up desk surface for monitors and peripherals, better chair clearance
- **Cons:** Higher risk of dust and kicks, harder cable management, potential airflow issues if placed in tight corners

Important tip: If you opt for floor placement, choose a PC stand or platform that lifts it a few inches off the ground. This approach reduces dust intake and protects from accidental bumps while aiding airflow.

Utilizing *Under Desk Mounts* for Your PC and Accessories

If your desk is truly tiny, an **under desk mount** for your PC case is an incredibly smart solution. These mounts secure your tower below the desktop surface but out of the way, preserving floor space and maintaining chair clearance.

Benefits of under-desk PC mounts:

- Keeps the PC off the floor, reducing dust and improving airflow
- Frees desk surface for active work items
- Keeps cables organized and closer to peripherals
- Easy to install and remove for maintenance

You might also see under desk mounts designed for other gear like power strips, external drives, or small UPS units. Using these mounts keeps your workspace clean and increases movement space, helping avoid cramped setups that cause repetitive strain.

Wall-Mounted Shelves: Adding Vertical Space for Your PC and Gear

When you can't grow horizontally, think vertically. Wall-mounted shelves are an excellent way to reclaim desk area without sacrificing access to your PC or other equipment. Mounting your PC tower on a sturdy wall shelf frees your desk and floor while keeping the tower within reach.



Important considerations when using wall shelves for PCs:



- Ensure the shelf is heavy duty and securely anchored into studs
- Check cable reach—measure the length of power and peripheral cables! Limited cable reach is a common pitfall causing frustrating setups
- Allow enough clearance around the PC for ventilation and heat dissipation
- Consider dust buildup and clean periodically

DimensionzHub.com emphasizes always verifying cable lengths before committing because many users underestimate how far their cables need to run. Planning your cable routes early prevents you from buying ultra-long cables later and creating unnecessary clutter.

Chair Clearance and Movement: Don't Forget This Critical Factor

Small desk setups rarely consider chair clearance—the crucial space your legs and chair need to freely move without scraping or bumping into gear. According to the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors, at least 24 inches (60 cm) of depth and 20 inches (50 cm) of width clearance under your desk is needed for comfortable seating and movement.

Before placing your PC, monitor arms, or shelves, measure your available floor and desk clearance with your chair fully pushed back. This ensures you don't inadvertently block legroom or cramp your posture.

Simple Measurement Checklist for Small Desk PC Placement

1. Measure desk depth and width
2. Assess your monitor viewing distance (20-30 inches recommended)
3. Measure cable lengths from PC to outlets and peripherals, consider cable reach for potential wall shelves or under-desk mounts
4. Check floor clearance with chair movement in mind (min 24" depth, 20" width recommended)
5. Decide if PC goes on desk, floor (with stand), under desk mount, or wall shelf based on above

Summary: Design Around What You Have Now for a Comfortable Small Desk Setup

Putting your PC in a small desk workspace isn't just about squeezing hardware in — it's about smartly factoring in desk depth, viewing distance, chair space, and cable management for a setup that's comfortable every day.

To recap:

- **Focus on current gear:** Skip hypothetical future purchases and setup for what you use daily
- **Consider PC location carefully:** Floor placement with dust shielding, desk placement with cable control, or under desk/wall mount for space savings
- **Use ergonomic tools:** Monitor arms increase desk depth flexibility; wall shelves and under desk mounts optimize vertical space
- **Measure chair clearance:** Don't impair comfort by sacrificing legroom
- **Plan cable reach thoroughly:** Measure and plan to avoid clutter and keep cables tidy

Whether you shop at MRQ, DimensionsHub.com, or rely on ergonomic principles from the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors, these simple measurement-driven principles will transform your small desk into a functional, comfortable PC workspace.