



TIMELESS WROUGHT IRON

"Unique Iron Furniture, Hardware & Decor"

Your Complete Dining Chair Guide

Your Complete Dining Chair Guide



The dining room is the heart and soul of every home. It's the place where the family gathers not only for meals but to spend quality time together. It's where you entertain and host formal or informal dinners for friends and family. The dining room furniture and décor should reflect your taste, personality as well as intended function. While the dining table is the focus of your dining area, the chairs are equally important. They should be comfortable and in line with your décor.

When you plan to buy dining chairs – or an entire dining set for that matter – you need to do a little research. Determine what space and budget you have, what kind of style and material you want and what size will work well with the available space.

Never fear — whether you love classic designs with timeless beauty or sleek, minimalist pieces, whether midcentury modern is your style mantra or you are an industrial aficionado, you will find the perfect dining chair that suits your tastes.

Things to Consider BEFORE Selecting Your New Dining Chairs

THE DINING TABLE SHOULD COME FIRST: If you haven't already, then select your dining table first. The size, type, style and number of dining chairs that you need depend on your dining table. If you are buying dining chairs to go with an existing dining table, then measure the table so that you know the exact dimensions when calculating the number of chairs it will accommodate. You'll need to note the height of your table as well, as that will get factored in when you select the chairs.

SIZE UP YOUR SPACE: Whenever you decide to buy new furniture, the first and foremost factor to consider is available space and the size of furniture that will fit into it.

Make sure your chairs are not too small – or too chunky – to fit your available dining space. The number of chairs that will fit around your dining table depends on the size of both your table and the chairs. The dining table's shape can also affect the number of chairs it will accommodate. For more details on dining tables, please refer to our guide: ***Your Complete Dining Table Guide.***

POINT TO PONDER: If you are buying an extendable dining table, all your chairs will not fit around it when the leaves are closed. So make sure you have space for the extra chairs as well.



DO THE MATH: You need to calculate available space on the dining table and around it before you can decide the size of your chairs. When planning table seating the main objective is to ensure comfort for all the people seated at the table. So try not to overcrowd the table.

KEEP AN EYE ON DINING CHAIR DEPTH: When you are selecting dining chairs, their depth needs to be considered so that you have enough space behind and beneath the table. You'll need at least 24"-28" behind each dining chair when someone is seated. For ample leg room beneath the table, a depth of 12"-14" is required.

SEAT HEIGHT: In order for a chair to be comfortable, it should be of appropriate height in comparison to the table. In order to have a comfortable reach, you should have a height difference of 10"-13" between the seat and the table.



HOW TO CALCULATE FOR SEAT HEIGHT: Measure the floor to table clearance; you'll need to start from the table aprons (that's the rail running between the legs of your dining table) beneath the top. The average dining table has a clearance of 28"-30" without the table aprons and about 25" when they are included. The chair height should clear the table aprons so that the seat fits beneath your table when not in use. Most armless or side chairs have no issues with the clearing as they are 15"-17" inches high at the seat. You have to be more careful with armchairs though, as the arms should ideally clear your table aprons for a snug fit.

WHEN ORDERING ONLINE: If you are ordering dining chairs online, then look at the dimensions provided by the manufacturer. You can find detailed measurements for the dining chairs and the dining table you have selected from the manufacturer's / retailer's website and calculate to see if the arms will go beneath the table's edge and aprons. Also look at the seat width to see how many chairs you can fit with the dining table.

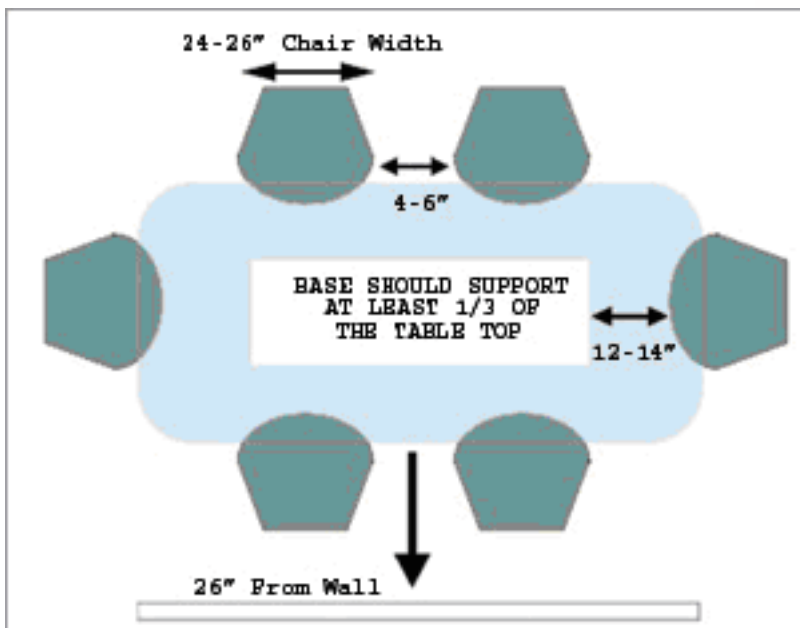
SPACE REQUIRED PER PERSON: Each person should have 28"-32" of space. This includes 24"-28" for the chair and about 4"-6" between two chairs.



SPACE FOR ARMCHAIRS: Make sure that your table height allows the arms of your dining chairs to slide beneath the top. Also allow an additional 2" of space per seat if you are choosing armchairs.

OPTING FOR ARMS ON THE DINING CHAIRS: Whether you want armed dining chairs or simple ones depends on your own preference. You may want to consider armed dining chairs if you have senior citizens in the household. Armed chairs provide support to the elderly in lowering or raising themselves from the dining chair. Secondly, armchairs are more comfortable as compared to other styles. If space is an issue, you should choose side chairs or armless chairs.

Traditionally, rectangular dining tables are set with two armchairs: one at the head and the other at the foot of the dining table, while armless or side chairs are used on both sides. But you can choose to have armchairs all around or side chairs all around as per your taste. If you have a round or square dining table then all the dining chairs should be the same.



Seating Options According to Table Height

When looking for dining chairs or seating options, you'll need to keep your dining table's height and type in mind as well.



Bar Stools (29" to 31" high): If you have a Bar table, then choose this seating option. Bar tables have a height of 39"-42".



Counter Stools (25" to 26" high): You'll require counter stools if you have a Bistro or Pub table that is 34"-36" in height.



Café Chairs (15"- 18" high): Café chairs work well with café tables as well as dining tables. Essentially, the café table is as high as the dining table – 28"-30" – but small in terms of diameter (30"-36").



Dining Chairs (15" to 18" high): Dining chairs work well with dining tables as well as café tables.



Intelligent Use of Your Dining Space

- For a visually balanced room, let the focus stay on the dining table and choose dining chairs that complement or accent it. Choose a larger dining table and go small on seating.
- Use a bench or a cushioned sofa on one side of your table to seat more diners and create a modern look.
- If you do plan on using a bench on one side of your table, you can place it in a window to add emphasis. For this you'll need to measure the window and buy a bench/sofa that fits properly.
- Benches are also feasible if you have limited space.
- Use transparent, acrylic seats to keep the focus on your table and make the room look more spacious.
- Go for side chairs rather than armchairs for smaller dining areas.
- Choose an open or delicate chair style if you have limited space. For a large dining room go for a solid backed chair or one with ornate details.

Which Style Should You Choose?

The market has an overwhelming range of furniture designs. From classic to contemporary, modern, minimalist and rustic, you'll be amazed to see the variety. So which one do you actually make a part of your home?

The choice naturally has a lot to do with personal taste as well as intended use. Your style choice will depend on whether you want an informal dining room or a formal one.

For a more traditional or classy dining room, you can try Windsor chairs. With their curvy, turned legs and carved saddle seats, they add grace and timeless elegance to your dining room. You can also go for Regency-style or Chippendale dining chairs.

For a country-style look, you can opt for slat-back chairs that come with one or more flat, vertical slats on their back and sleek, straight legs. Ladder-back chairs also work well with country-style tables.



For a formal, elegant look go for tall parsons dining chairs with upholstered rectangular backs and seats.

If you are planning on a Victorian styled dining room, you can go for an ornate dining table with wicker chairs to create a timeless look. Ornately forged wrought iron chairs also work very well with Victorian inspired interiors.

For a modern dining room you can find beautiful contemporary style dining chairs.

Another great option is to go for wrought iron dining chairs. Wrought iron chairs are extremely sturdy and can be as ornate or as casual as you want them to be. Available in a wide range of styles, sizes and finish options, you can find wrought iron chairs for any décor. The seats are usually upholstered to ensure comfort. You can find matching wrought iron dining tables and chairs from leading wrought iron manufacturers. All the pieces will carry complementing iron work for a perfect look.

Balance Style and Comfort

When choosing new dining chairs, you need to look for the optimal blend of style and comfort. The chair should go with your décor and taste but it is equally important that it is comfortable and allows your guests to linger over their meal, relax and have an enjoyable time. If you have plastic or acrylic chairs, they are very sleek and stylish to look at but the hard seat makes it uncomfortable to sit through an entire meal. You don't want your guests to abandon the table before dessert is served!

Wrought Iron chairs often come with upholstery to ensure comfort. When you are selecting a chair with upholstery, ensure there is ample padding on the back and / or seat. The dining chair should have at least 16"-17" of depth for comfort and if you are going for armchairs, try to find a design where the arms are 7"-9" above the seat.



Choosing the Right Material for Your Dining Chairs

The material you choose not only determines the durability and sturdiness of your dining room furniture but also creates the final look of the room. This is again a personal preference but also depends on budget. It should complement the dining table as well as other pieces in your dining room to create a visually balanced look. For instance, wood and wrought iron go very well together and can be used to create a timelessly elegant look.

Popular options for chairs include wood, iron, plastic, vinyl, leather covered chairs and ones with upholstery. If you choose acrylic or plastic chairs, you can create a modern to retro or informal dining room. Plastic chairs often come in sleek, minimalist lines and work well for small spaces.

Wooden chairs can be classic or rustic as per their design. Wood is a versatile material and can be used to create a varied number of looks. With different stains and finishes you can color-coordinate your dining room very well. Make sure the wood is sturdy and the joints in the chairs bonded well together.

Metal chairs are highly versatile as well and can be used to create different looks. You can go for sleek, minimalist designs in metal for that ultramodern look. Or you could go for a classically ornate wrought iron chair that fits well in a Victorian setting. You'll find simple rustic designs as well.

Wrought iron dining chairs come in different finish and upholstery options so that you can create a perfectly color-coordinated dining room. Wrought iron chairs are often paired up with matching dining tables that have the same iron work and finish to create a very elegant look without going through much trouble.

Metal chairs also work well with a rustic dining table that has a distressed wood top to create a beautiful blend of different textures and materials.

You can also opt for Rattan or wicker chairs for a textured and light option. These materials give your dining room an earthy, organic feel.



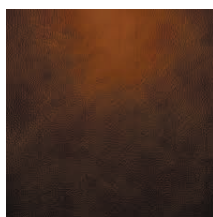
Choosing Dining Chair Upholstery

When choosing a material for upholstery, the color, texture and design are important. You also need to consider the budget and durability of the material.

Your upholstery plays a major role in finalizing the overall look of your dining room. With the right upholstery, your dining room will look as formal – or as casual – as you want it to be. For instance, brocades, silks and velvets will add a classy, formal touch to the dining set. Funky prints in microfiber or fabric will create an upbeat, casual look.

Microfiber is a popular choice as it is durable and very stain resistant. If you are planning on buying leather upholstered dining chairs, then go for a full-grain leather chair. It is a bit expensive but durable and very beautiful. If you are on a budget, then suede leather or corrected-grain leather will work too.

Leather upholstery can be wiped clean and is quite durable. The leather looks even more beautiful as it ages and softens, and different color options allow you to match the chair upholstery with your room's color scheme. You can also go for dark, bold leather upholstery to accent a light colored dining room.



Leather



Wood



Wicker



Metal



What will work better in your household?

You need to consider cleaning options as well. This is especially important for households with children. Silks and velvets, for instance, will be tougher to clean while leather and cotton / polyester blends or microfiber can be wiped clean and are more stain resistant.

Same goes for chair frames. Finished wood, vinyl or metal chairs can be wiped clean but upholstery may need to be sent to the dry cleaners or put in a washing machine.

Whatever you decide on, in the end the dining chairs should reflect your personality and lifestyle. Another very important thing you should keep in mind is that these dining chairs will stay in your home for the years to come. They should be visually beautiful as well as durable and comfortable.

Options like Wrought Iron allow you to choose an elegant design without compromising on sturdiness. Different finish options and a wide range of upholstery options allow wrought iron dining chairs to blend well with any décor. Wrought Iron dining chairs can be as delicate or bold as you like. Different wrought iron manufacturers offer a wide range of designs that are uniquely hand forged and timelessly elegant.

Timeless Wrought Iron offers a wide range of wrought iron dining chairs and other wrought iron pieces from all the leading manufacturers of the country. Please visit TimelessWroughtIron.com to browse our collection and order online.