Do's & Don'ts

Tips on Using Booths and Specialty Seating



DO'S

SPACE

- Make sure that you have enough space. A typical booth facing booth configuration requires a minimum of six feet on-center, if you are using a 30" top. For every inch smaller or larger the table may be, the on-center must change. Do not try and squeeze a booth into a space, you will constrain the comfort of your guest and they will be dissatisfied with the experience. The more formal the dining room, the more booth seating is required.

FLOOR PLAN

- Review your layout with your booth vendor, watch for exposed outside backs, window heights, or even air ducts.
- Have a plan for how long you want people to sit. According to a study done by Cornell University*, people do sit longer in booths than chairs. Consider wall benches if you need to accommodate groups of people.

POWER

- Whether you incorporate power in the wall, the table top, or the booth, people need to access power in today's world. If you want to communicate that users are welcome to "recharge," make the power accessible.

FABRIC

- Select fabrics that are easy to clean.
- Booth seats should have durable and smooth material, making it easy for a person to scoot across.

PRIVACY

- Use back height to subdivide space and create privacy. Lower heights versus taller heights will impact the feel of the space.

COMFORT

- Spring seats will wear better over time, keeping seats firm and comfortable. Foam only seats tend to break down much faster, making booths uncomfortable.
- Geometry must be right for the application. Booths for lounges might require more back pitch than a booth used in dining.

DON'TS

CLEANABILITY

- Do not use legs on booths if you are unwilling or unable to clean behind and beneath the booths. It is very hard to reach to the back in many cases. If you must have legs for your design, consider putting a laminated box base behind the legs

TABLES

- Do not make tables too small if food trays are in use.
- Do not use circle booths with table tops from a different vendor without having CAD drawings done to insure the exact table shape and size. If wood finishes must match, obtain samples from both vendors.

ACCURACY

- Do not have a project quoted or purchased until a floor plan has been reviewed by the manufacturer.
- Do not purchase nonstandard products without approving a shop drawing. If you have nonstandard lengths or dimensions, require shop drawings for approval.

QUALITY

- Do not have booths built on site by the GC or carpenter. They need to be built by a commercial furniture company. Booths are very high use lounge furniture and should be manufactured by vendors that understand the geometry and suspension requirements that will make your booth more comfortable and durable.

* A study by Sheryl K. Kimes and Stephanie K. A. Robson, called ***The Impact of Restaurant Table Characteristics on Meal Duration and Spending***, found a definite relationship between layout and client behavior.