

If you love gaming and collecting, you know the struggle: your prized collectibles slowly creep into every inch of your small setup until it's hard to even find room to place your mouse. While those displays bring personality and charm, they can quickly overpower your desk and make your gaming sessions less comfortable and enjoyable. The key is designing around *what you actually use every day*, not your hypothetical future collection or wishlist.

In this guide, we'll explore practical strategies to keep your collectibles from taking over your small gaming space, focusing on **shelf organization**, **decluttering your desk**, and using **wall shelves** effectively. Along the way, we'll bring in insights from experts at the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors and practical tools like MRQ's monitor arms and DimensionzHub.com's space planning resources.

Why Designing for Current Gear, Not Future Gear, Saves Space

One of the biggest pitfalls when setting up a gaming station is planning for gear you don't own yet. It's tempting to [vertical storage gaming](#) reserve space for that ultra-wide monitor you want to buy or every figure in a series you dream of collecting, but this leads to oversized desks, wasted space, and clutter that never fits.

Before you buy or install anything, take stock of what you use every day. What controllers, consoles, monitors, and peripherals are part of your daily gaming routine? Measure those precisely. This prevents overbuilding your setup and focuses your space planning on practical comfort and usability.

DimensionzHub.com has excellent tools to help you input your current gear's measurements and generate optimized layouts. Using those, you can see how many collectibles you can squeeze in without overriding ergonomic needs.

Understanding Desk Depth and Viewing Distance for Comfort

Desk depth often gets overlooked—people choose a desk by width or looks and then cram everything. But depth is crucial to maintain a comfortable viewing distance from your monitor, and that means less eye strain and better posture.

The Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors recommends that the ideal distance from your eyes to your monitor is roughly 20 to 40 inches (50 to 100 cm), depending on screen size.

Screen Size	Recommended Viewing Distance
24 inches	20 to 30 inches (50-75 cm)
27-32 inches	25 to 36 inches (65-90 cm)
34 inches or more (ultra-wide)	30 to 40 inches (75-100 cm)

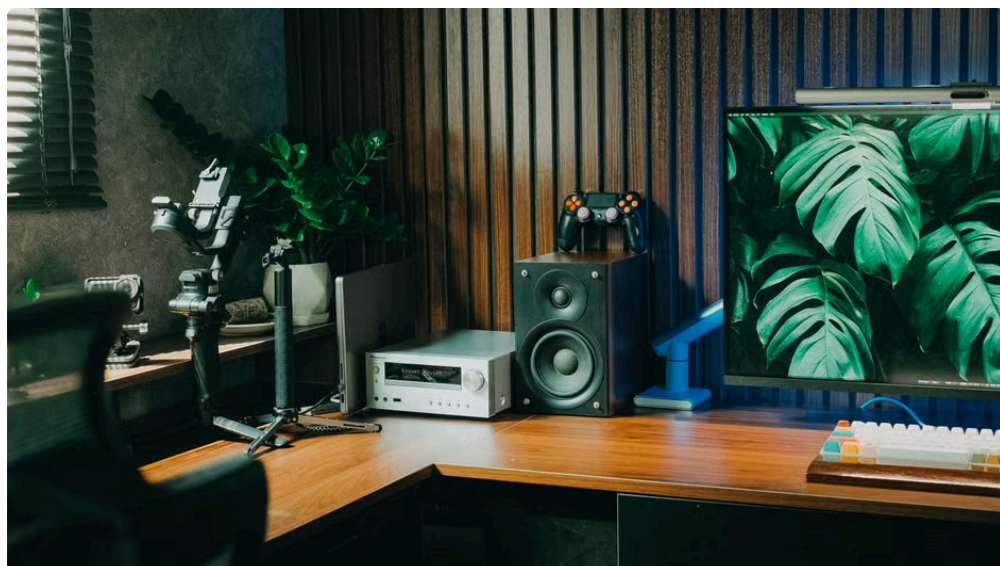
Matching your desk depth to your monitor and seating height ensures you aren't forced to shove collectibles forward, crowding your mouse and keyboard space. A well-planned desk depth allows collectibles to get wall-mounted or shelved without competing for space on the desk surface itself.

Small-Space Ergonomics: Chair Clearance and Movement Space

Another crucial but often forgotten factor is chair clearance. According to health and ergonomics research, leaving at least 12 inches (30 cm) behind your chair for movement and legroom is critical to avoid back discomfort and keep your posture neutral.

When collectibles stack up too close behind or beside your chair, you'll find yourself bumping or shifting uncomfortably, which interrupts your flow and harms long-term comfort.

Before placing shelves or stands for figures, test how much space your chair needs to move freely. It's better to reserve that movement space than have a tighter but more cluttered area that gets frustrating quickly.



Declutter Desk: Prioritize Everyday Essentials

Start decluttering by putting all non-essential items away from the desk surface. Your mouse, keyboard, current console controller, and headset are what you use daily. These need priority real estate.

- Place mouse and keyboard centered in front of your monitor.
- Use a dedicated spot for your headset, preferably a stand or hanger off to the side—some retailers like MRQ (mrq.com) offer clever headset arms and mounts.
- Controllers not in daily rotation can go onto wall shelves or dedicated side units.

One of my favorite tips is to use a *monitor arm*. This frees up desk feet space, allowing for additional collectibles underneath or behind the monitor base. MRQ's monitor arms feature adjustable designs perfect for smaller desks where every inch counts.

Shelf Organization: Wall Shelves Are Your Best Friend

Wall shelves are probably the most underrated tool for a small gaming setup that tries to incorporate collectibles. Instead of claiming precious desk or floor space, wall shelves make vertical real estate work for you.

Choosing the Right Wall Shelves

Look for narrow shelves around 6 to 8 inches (15-20 cm) deep. This is enough surface area to display figurines or busts but keeps them thin enough not to obstruct monitors or give a claustrophobic feel. Use multiple staggered shelves to create layered depth without crowding one flat surface.

DimensionzHub.com offers curated wall shelf sizing guides that help you select shelves proportionate to your gear—for example, placing collectibles slightly above eye level to keep your desk clear.

Organizing Collectibles on Shelves

1. **Categorize by size:** Put larger items in the center or lower shelves and smaller ones on upper shelves.
2. **Group by series or theme:** Visually consistent groups keep shelves looking curated instead of chaotic.

3. **Limit shelf load:** Don't overfill; leave breathing room for air and light.

4. **Use lighting strategically:** Small LED strip lights or puck lights highlight collectibles without taking up surface space.

Maintain Regular Decluttering Habits

The best way to keep collectibles from taking over is a periodic check. Every 3 months, review what you have on display, assess what you no longer interact with, and rotate or store items away.

This process stops your setup from becoming a shrine to your entire collection and keeps the space practical as a gaming station.

Summary: Best Practices at a Glance

Focus Area Key Tip Resource or Tool Plan around current gear Measure gear you use daily; ignore future wishlist.
DimensionzHub.com Desk depth and viewing distance Align desk depth for comfortable monitor distance (20-40 inches).
Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors Chair clearance Leave at least 12 inches behind chair for movement.
Self-measure and test your chair space Declutter desk essentials Keep mouse, keyboard, everyday controller visible and accessible.
MRQ monitor arms and headset mounts Shelf organization Use narrow, staggered wall shelves for collectibles display.
DimensionzHub.com shelving guides Regular declutter Quarterly review and rotation of collectibles to avoid overwhelm.
Your own calendar reminders!

Final Thoughts

Small gaming setups don't have to be sterile or empty to stay comfortable and functional. By designing around what you actually use every day, giving your gear and collectibles dedicated spaces, and respecting ergonomics principles like chair clearance and viewing distance, you can have a curated wall of figures and a clean gaming desk in harmony.

Remember: a little planning and smart shelf organization go a long way. With tools like wall shelves and monitor arms, plus resources from DimensionzHub.com and insights from the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors, your small gaming setup can stay clutter-free, comfortable, and uniquely yours.



Happy gaming and collecting!