



# PERGOLA STYLE GUIDE

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# PERGOLA KITS STYLE GUIDE: OVERVIEW

If you've decided to add a wooden pergola to your backyard and you're not sure where to start, check out this guide for choosing a pergola style. We have a range of popular styles and sizes to choose from in freestanding (stand-alone) or attached (a pergola that attaches to a house or other structure). Any of our styles can be made using either rough sawn western red cedar or pressure treated #1 grade southern yellow pine. For a quick comparison, here are the highlights to help you find the perfect wooden pergola to fit your space. Contact us for a full comparison of all of our pergola styles complete with specifications.

There are a few things all of our pergolas have in common. Since we designed our pergolas to withstand high winds and extreme weather conditions here in Florida where our pergola company resides, you can rest assured that the pergola you'll receive has been crafted with care and can stand up to harsh weather Mother Nature sends your way.

If you order one of our full size pergolas, you'll receive a kit that's complete with 2×8 beams, 2×8 rafters and 6×6 posts, and 2×6 angle braces. Sometimes called pergola roof brackets or pergola brackets, our angle braces are decorative and offer a nice design element to finish the pergola. These features are included in our Big Kahuna, Sombrero, and Fedora pergola kits. Our full size large pergola styles are frequently chosen for backyard projects that need a cover for an outdoor kitchen, an open-air living room, or a patio next to a swimming pool.

## TOP USES FOR FREESTANDING PERGOLA STYLES:

- Extend a living room or kitchen
- Create a larger awning or patio cover
- Enclose an existing patio or make a private open air dining room



## TOP USES FOR ATTACHED PERGOLA STYLES:

- Extend a living room or kitchen
- Create a larger awning or patio cover
- Cover a porch or deck area



We also offer our Big Kahuna pergolas in a solar ready model. This pergola kit is based on the Big Kahuna, but is designed to accommodate solar panels. The Big Kahuna Solar Ready Pergola Kit includes 6×6 posts, double 2×10 beams, 2×8 rafters, 2×6 angle braces, 2×2 top slats, two 2×8 bearing boards to support a solar rack system, 2×10 ledger board + concrete anchors or lag screws (attached pergola kits only), stainless steel hardware, and step-by-step installation instructions. This kit includes all materials required to assemble your solar pergola, but does not include solar panels, racks, or other solar related equipment. You'll need to locate a solar contractor to provide the solar panels and solar panel installation.

Our other smaller designs feature a pergola frame that is used as a garden pergola or trellis type structure (the Brim) or as an awning above a window or garage door (the Visor).

All are built with precision and made to order, so once you decide the type of pergola you'd like, you can choose with confidence knowing you'll receive a quality product made just for you.

What will you be using the pergola for? Do you want more coverage or less coverage for your patio? Are you looking to create a large shady area in your backyard that will cover your outdoor kitchen or dining room? Or are you trying to create an awning that attaches to your house to extend your living space outdoors? We have a range of pergola styles and sizes to choose from in freestanding or attached made from either rough sawn western red cedar or pressure treated #1 grade southern yellow pine.



## DEFINE YOUR STYLE: ATTACHMENT & ROOF

Two of the first steps in choosing your style are: 1) choosing freestanding or attached, and 2) choosing how much coverage you'd like for your space. Either choice of pergola kit (freestanding vs. attached) can be built in a variety of styles and coverage options. The roof of our pergolas can be built with a varied number of top slats to create the amount of shade you desire for your outdoor room.

### Freestanding Pergola

Standard size freestanding pergolas have four posts, with two posts supporting one set of beams on each side of the pergola. For sizes larger than 20' long or wide, more posts will be required to support the pergola.



### Attached Pergola

Standard size attached pergolas have two posts, with two posts supporting one set of beams on one side, and a ledger board attached to a structure to support the rafters on the opposing side. For sizes larger than 20' wide, an additional support post will be required to support the pergola.



The biggest difference between our best-selling full-size pergolas is the number of rafters and top slats. This choice will determine how much coverage you'll get from the pergola once it's installed. If you already know you want maximum coverage, then you can start with the Big Kahuna pergola. The Big Kahuna provides the most coverage offering more rafters and top slats than the Sombrero and Fedora, and is offered in over 90 standard sizes and custom sizes.

## Big Kahuna Pergola Kits for Maximum Shade Coverage

- Classic pergola design
- Built for maximum sun coverage
- Engineered for extreme weather conditions
- Available in solar-ready
- The Big Kahuna is our signature kit that combines strength and style and provides maximum coverage. This sturdy, quality pergola is built using 6x6 posts, 2x8 double beams, 2x8 rafters (every 12 inches) and 2x2 top slats (every 6 inches). Standard pergola sizes range in size from 8x8 up to 20x20.



The Big Kahuna term is associated with the meaning expert in an art or profession, oftentimes relating to surfing. Big Kahuna Pergola Kit name originates with the designer of the Big Kahuna and his passion for surfing big waves on the Florida coast where our pergolas come to life. That zeal continues through our pergola craftsmen who are passionate about building quality crafted pergola kits. The Big Kahuna is engineered to withstand 160 MPH wind gusts. In designing all of our kits at our Florida-based beginnings, we had to make sure that our pergolas would be able to withstand extreme Florida-type weather situations all year round such as:

- Hurricanes
- The second highest air salt content in the world
- Daily summer rain storms
- Tornadoes
- Winter drought conditions

These elements can be detrimental to the life of the materials used on outdoor wood structure products. So, as you can see we have good reason to be sure that our pergolas were strongly designed with quality materials that could stand up to these harsh elements.

## Sombrero Pergola Kits for Medium Coverage

- Our Big Kahuna design with fewer rafters and top slats
- Built for medium sun coverage



A sombrero hat conjures up images of a wide-brim high crown hat that provides coverage from the sun. Our Sombrero provides that coverage for outdoor patios. Sharing a solid design with our Big Kahuna, the Sombrero pergola kit has half the top slats and rafters, which translates to a solid pergola that captures the open feel of the outdoors.

Offered at an even more affordable price point than the Big Kahuna, the Sombrero is also offered in both freestanding and attached in standard 8x8 up to 20x20, as well as custom sizes. Standard sizes come with 6x6 posts, double 2x8 beams, 2x8 notched rafters, and 2x2 top slats.

Since the rafters are placed on 24 inch centers and the top slats on 12 inch centers, this pergola style creates a more exposed feel than the Big Kahuna, but with more coverage than many other pergolas for sale.



## Fedora Pergola Kits for Light Shade Coverage

- Classic pergola style
- Open design
- Taller/ un-notched roofing system.



The Fedora patio cover kit is an open design pergola that can be placed in a backyard garden to create a sitting area over an outdoor kitchen or patio. Much like the timeless hat the Fedora, this pergola design is simple yet stylish.

We build the Fedora with 6×6 posts, double 2×8 beams, 2×8 rafters, 2×2 top slats and stainless steel hardware. In this design, the rafters are un-notched and configured in 3 sets of 2 for sizes 8x8 to 15x15, or 4 sets of 2 for larger sizes.

Standard size pergola kits for the Fedora are 8x8 all the way up to 20x20. All standard sizes that have rafters size 8'-15' will include 8 top slats. All standard sizes with rafters 16'-20' include 10 top slats.



## Brim Pergola Kits for Garden and Patio Enhancement

- Wooden trellis like design
- Perfect as a patio or walkway border, for hanging plants or lighting

The brim of a hat is the projecting edge along the bottom rim. Our Brim pergola kit is a beautiful trellis like structure, perfect for the edge of a garden, patio, or deck. Standard pergola kit sizes for the Brim are 8 feet up to 20 feet. Custom sizes are available upon request. Uses for this border style pergola include plant hanger, garden border, pergola hammock hanger, or a simple and elegant garden decorative feature. Standard Brim pergolas include 6×6 notched posts, 2X8 beams, and 2×6 rafters (notched over double beam).



## Visor Pergola Kits for Awnings and Garden Use

- Wooden awning
- Enhances and provides shade above a window or door opening

A visor is sometimes known as an edge of the front of a hat or a protective screen from unwanted light. Our Visor pergola kit serves a similar purpose. The Visor is our awning-style pergola that enhances the look of your windows and door openings, or enhances a blank outer wall of a home or enclosed porch. For our Visor, we build standard sizes from 3 to 12 feet, using 2x8 beams, 2x6 rafters and 2x2 top slats. Custom sizes are always an option.



# COMPARISON OF PERGOLA STYLES

A side-by-side comparison can help you decide which is best for your space. This section of our pergola kit style guide describes each style, amount of pergola roof coverage, and typical uses for that pergola style. Contact us for a full comparison of all of our pergola styles, complete with specifications.

	SHADE	SIZES	STYLES	USES	END CUTS & ANGLE BRACES
<b>BIG KAHUNA PERGOLA</b>	MAXIMUM	8X8-20X20 + CUSTOM	FREESTANDING, ATTACHED	PATIO COVER FOR OUTDOOR KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, POOL DECK	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: STANDARD 2"X6"X3' WITH DECORATIVE CUT; TWO PER POST
<b>BIG KAHUNA SOLAR READY PERGOLA</b>	MAXIMUM	8X8-20X20 + CUSTOM	FREESTANDING, ATTACHED	PATIO COVER FOR OUTDOOR KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, POOL DECK.	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: STANDARD 2"X6"X3' WITH DECORATIVE CUT; TWO PER POST
<b>SOMBRERO PERGOLA</b>	MEDIUM	8X8-20X20 + CUSTOM	FREESTANDING, ATTACHED	PATIO COVER FOR OUTDOOR KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, POOL DECK	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: STANDARD 2"X6"X3' WITH DECORATIVE CUT; TWO PER POST
<b>FEDORA PERGOLA</b>	LIGHT	8X8-20X20 + CUSTOM	FREESTANDING, ATTACHED	PATIO COVER FOR OUTDOOR KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, POOL DECK	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: STANDARD 2"X6"X3' WITH DECORATIVE CUT; TWO PER POST
<b>BRIM PERGOLA</b>	N/A	8', 10', 12' 16', 20' + CUSTOM	FREESTANDING	BORDER OR TRELLIS	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: N/A
<b>VISOR PERGOLA</b>	N/A	3', 6', 8', 12' + CUSTOM	ATTACHED	DECORATIVE ACCENT OR PROTECTION OVER WINDOW OR GARAGE DOOR	CHOICE OF 5 END CUTS; ANGLE BRACES: STANDARD 2"X2" WITH DECORATIVE CUT

# DEFINE YOUR STYLE: PERGOLA WOOD CHOICES

## Wood Types for Pergolas

The type of wood you choose for your pergola can make a difference in your design. You may have been researching best wood types for outdoor structures to use for your patio cover. Along with compatibility with climate in your area, weigh in on your personal preferences. Do you want a wood type that you can paint or stain right away when you receive your pergola, or can it wait few months? Do you prefer a more rustic look, or smooth lines?

Which types of pergola wood work best where you live? Do you have severe weather?

Most people experience severe weather at some point during the year due to dry climate, humid climate, high winds, harsh winters, extreme heat, or a combination of those. That's why we chose two of the sturdiest wood types for our pergolas, so either choice you make will ensure you have a quality outdoor structure that will last for many years.

### Pressure Treated #1 Southern Yellow Pine

Pressure treated pine is smooth sawn, is able to withstand severe weather, and is very rot and insect resistant. The chemicals added to this classic, sturdy wood type gives it those properties. Pressure treated pine comes with a green appearance, but as it dries will turn to a beautiful golden brown. After a couple months drying time after the pergola kit is assembled, you can apply stain or water sealant to maintain the golden color. If not water sealed or stained, the wood will turn gray over time. Since the pine lumber will be saturated with the pressure treatment when it arrives, you'll need to wait a few months before staining or painting it. Southern yellow pine is sustainably harvested in the southeastern United States.

***“We use two of the sturdiest wood types, so either choice you make will ensure you have a quality outdoor structure that will last for many years.”***

### Western Red Rough Sawn Tight Knot Cedar

Western Red Cedar has a rustic look with a beautiful light amber color. This wood type is used to build cedar pergola kits for locations where exposure to the elements is continually severe. Western cedar's resistance to decay and sturdy qualities make it ideal for outdoor use. Its appealing fragrance adds another attractive feature to its qualities. Its close, even grain can be easily worked and finished smooth with little effort if you choose to do so. Western red cedar takes paints and stains very well and those can be applied as soon as your pergola kit arrives. Western red cedar contains no chemicals, is 100% natural, and is sustainably harvested in North America.

#### ***Want to Stain Right Away?***

Do you want to stain or paint your pergola right away? If you can't wait, you'll need to choose cedar. **Pressure treated pine needs a couple months for the treatment to dry before staining or painting.**



# DEFINE YOUR STYLE: PERGOLA SHAPES & SIZES

Since there are unlimited sizes of patios and landscapes, we have a size and style to fit most landscapes. All of our pergolas big or small are suitable for year-round use. Choose a pergola that fits your lifestyle - to cool off in the shade poolside, or to rest under and get cozy by the fire.

## Size and Shape

Our full size wood pergola kits can be built in a square or rectangle shape in a variety of sizes small, medium or large. Some of the most popular sizes are 10x16, 12x14, 13x13, 14x16, 18x18, and 20x20. You may need a smaller size to fit a townhome outdoor patio with limited space for your outdoor dining room. Maybe you're on a rooftop in a downtown area and want a cover for outdoor relaxation but don't have much patio space to accommodate a larger patio cover. Medium size patios commonly found in suburban areas or small-town landscapes can make room for a wide variety of our standard sizes. Sprawling backyards with lots of acreage or waterfront access, have limitless options for pergolas.

## Small Pergola Kits for Small Spaces

Our small pergola kits are offered in various styles. The Brim pergola kit and the Visor pergola kit can be used for borders or accents for your home or yard. Our full-size kits can be ordered in smaller sizes to fit smaller space while providing a lot or a little protection from the sun. City patio or small backyards will accommodate most of the smaller size Big Kahuna, Sombrero, and Fedora. These styles come in sizes such as 8x8, 9x11, 10x16 and many other sizes in between.



## Medium Pergola Kits for Medium Spaces

Creating an outdoor sitting area, dining room, or retreat for your home or commercial business can be done with a medium size pergola. Attach a pergola to the outside of your home and create an instant room. Or design a completely separate area where you can relax by a fire with family and friends.



## Large Pergola Kits for Large Spaces

If your backyard space can accommodate a larger pergola, you have the luxury of designing a completely separate room and add landscaping to enhance the area even more! A pool deck is the perfect place to add some patio coverage, so you'll have a shady spot to enjoy refreshments. If you like to entertain and throwing backyard parties, a patio with a fire ring or an outdoor dining room can be the focal point of your landscape design.



Custom sizes of attached pergolas or freestanding pergolas can be built for any size yard. Maybe you have a small space in your backyard next to your pool that you'd like to cover so you can enjoy it even in the midday sun. Or you have multiple acres with a big open space that you'd like to design a place to escape and relax away from the hustle and bustle.

## CONTACT US!

So no matter what size your space is or what your surroundings may be, you can find a pergola to match your style. Using the information in our pergola style guide, you'll be well on your way to transforming your outdoor space. Find your perfect pergola today! If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call.

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