



The Ultimate Pine Pergola Planning & Building Checklist

Use this guide to ensure your pergola project is a success from start to finish. Check off each item as you complete it.

Phase 1: Planning & Design (1-2 Weeks Before Build)

- ☐ **Define Purpose:** What is the main use? (e.g., Dining, lounging, garden feature).
- ☐ **Measure Your Space:** Record the length, width, and desired height.
- ☐ **Choose a Style:** Traditional, modern, or rustic?
- ☐ **Select a Size:** Use the size guide to determine the best fit for your needs.
- ☐ **Check Local Regulations:** Contact your local building authority for permit requirements and property line setbacks.
- ☐ **Check HOA Rules:** Review any neighborhood covenants or restrictions.
- ☐ **Create a Budget:** Estimate costs for materials, hardware, and potential labor.

Phase 2: Materials & Tools

- ☐ **Lumber Acquired:**
 - Pressure-treated pine posts (4x4 or 6x6)
 - Beams (e.g., 2x8 or 2x10)
 - Rafters (e.g., 2x6 or 2x8)
 - Braces (e.g., 4x4)
- ☐ **Hardware Acquired:**
 - Concrete mix for footings
 - Metal post anchors/brackets
 - Galvanized or stainless steel lag screws, bolts, and deck screws
- ☐ **Finishing Supplies Acquired:**
 - Exterior-grade wood cleaner
 - UV-protectant stain or sealant
- ☐ **Tools Checklist:**
 - Tape Measure & Level
 - Post Hole Digger or Auger
 - Circular Saw or Miter Saw
 - Drill with appropriate bits
 - Wrench Set
 - Ladders (at least two)
 - Safety Glasses & Gloves



Phase 3: Building & Installation

- ☐ **Site Preparation:** Area is clear, level, and utility lines are marked.
- ☐ **Footing Holes Dug:** Holes are dug to the correct depth (below the frost line).
- ☐ **Concrete Poured & Cured:** Post anchors are set and concrete has fully cured (24-72 hours).
- ☐ **Posts Installed:** Posts are plumb (perfectly vertical) and securely fastened.
- ☐ **Beams Attached:** Beams are level and securely bolted to posts.
- ☐ **Rafters Installed:** Rafters are evenly spaced and fastened.
- ☐ **Braces Added:** All corner braces are installed for stability.

Phase 4: Finishing & Final Checks

- ☐ **Final Inspection:** Check all connections are tight and the structure is stable.
- ☐ **Clean the Wood:** Wash off any dirt or construction marks.
- ☐ **Apply Sealant/Stain:** Apply the first protective coat once the wood is completely dry.
- ☐ **Add Decor:** Install lighting, furniture, and plants.
- ☐ **Schedule a Maintenance Reminder:** Set a calendar alert for one year from now to clean and re-seal.