

Checklist

- Have you consulted your local council regarding permits and requirements? Yes No

(Requirements for pergolas may differ between council areas).

- Do you live in a bushfire prone area? Yes No

(If so, the design for your pergola will be dependent on your house's 'Bushfire Attack Level', or BAL).

- Do you live in a cyclone prone area? Yes No

(If so, your pergola will need to be constructed in a way that accounts for the potential winds it may experience, and will need to comply with the cyclone code. Pergolas with roofs are likely to require extra reinforcement).

- What sort of pergola do you intend to build? (tick more than one if necessary)

- Cladded pergola

- Open-top pergola

- Gabled pergola

- Pitched pergola

- Sail pergola

- Are you building on reactive soil? Yes No

(If so, your footings may need to be specially engineered to account for this).

- What sorts of utility connections will be required to your pergola?

- Electricity

- Gas

- Water



Checklist

- None
(Installing fixed services for things like spas and barbecues before you build the pergola, particularly if it's part of a deck, will make the job easier. Remember though, sometimes it will be easier to install lighting after the pergola is constructed so you know exactly how light and shadows will be cast).
-

- Are you planning on getting builders in or doing it yourself?
 - Builders
 - DIY
(If you intend to build your own pergola, make sure you fully understand the extent of the task, and what's involved in terms of regulations and inspections).
-

- What material are you going to use for the pergola frame?
 - Timber
 - Steel
 - Other
(If you're using timber footings, make sure they have an H level treatment of H4 or higher).
-

- Are the fastenings you're using a minimum of hot-dip galvanised steel for weather protection? Yes No
(Inadequate fastenings will fail over time due to weathering).
-

- Are you going to paint, stain or leave your pergola natural?
 - Paint
 - Stain
 - None
 - Other
-

Checklist

- Are you planning on including a roof or other covering?
 - Fully clad

 - Partially clad

 - Shaded

 - Other
(Heavier roof claddings will change your pergola's structural requirements, and may require special fastenings if you're building in a cyclone or highly wind-prone area).

- Are you planning on including a gable? Yes No
(Filling in the gable on a pergola can allow for extra shade, and make the pergola feel more enclosed).

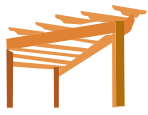
- Do you need to make allowances for trellises for vines? Yes No
(Vines can help to provide natural privacy and block wind, as well as looking good and providing some shade. Remember though - they can also attract insects).

- Has the site been adequately cleared? Yes No
(Poor site preparation may lead to soil re-settling after the pergola has been installed and cause damage or instability – consider things like roots left over from tree-stumps and back-filled land).

- Have you allowed for site drainage? Yes No
(Establishing proper drainage will help reduce the risk of damage to your footings).

- Will your pergola be built to accommodate trees or other large flora? Yes No
(Remember that trees can cause damage to decking in a number of ways - both above ground and with their roots).

- Have you guarded properly against termites and insects? Yes No
(This may include using treated or naturally durable timbers, or chemically treating the soil around the pergola before you start construction).



Checklist

- Will you need any lighting installed?

Yes No

(Pergolas may often be used at night for entertaining. Consider and experiment with lighting to ensure that you have a sufficient amount where it's needed, and that shadows are controlled effectively. It's often easier to plan and install lighting after the pergola is constructed).