



# NARANGBA TIMBERS

*GUIDE TO DIY*  
**PERGOLA**

*Before you know it, you've built something special!*



*So, you've decided to build something special and rejuvenate your outdoor space, with a pergola in your backyard.*

*A pergola can be a perfect hideaway for when you're looking to switch off and reconnect with your natural surroundings or spend precious moments with your family.*

*It's time to gather your helpers and get your materials ready to build your own DIY pergola.*

*This how-to guide to building a pergola will cover all the steps you need to build something special for you and your family.*







## *Contents*

1. *Types of pergola*
2. *Types of timber*
3. *What materials you'll need*
4. *Steps*
5. *Gallery*
6. *Maintenance tips*



*At Narangba Timbers, we have a variety of timber options to cover all your pergola needs.*

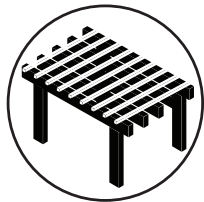
## *What style of pergola should I build?*

Every pergola is essentially an outdoor arch or structure with a roof. They can have many purposes – from providing shade or complementing your backyard's style, to being a full entertainment area.

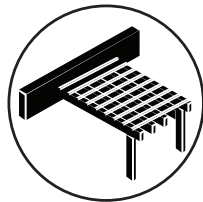
Start by planning out what style you're looking to build and how big it's going to be. The primary decision that you'll have to make is whether your pergola will be freestanding or fixed to a wall. Then, draw your floor plan and elevations, to scale, on graph paper.

If you need help coming up with a plan to suit your needs and budget, give the team at Narangba Timbers a call. One of our timber experts can advise you on the ideal pergola for your property.

*Popular styles of pergola you could try building include:*



*Freestanding  
Pergola*



*Fixed to wall  
Pergola*



*Tip: If you need help coming up with a plan to suit your needs and budget, give the team at Narangba Timbers a call. One of our timber experts can advise you on the ideal pergola for your property.*





## What kind of timber can I use for a pergola?



### SOFTWOOD



Treated pine is ideal for creating a strong outdoor structure like a pergola – without breaking the bank. It's light, economical and particularly hardy, offering important protection against both decay and termites.

When using treated pine ensure the timber for posts have a H4 durability rating and any of the decorative beams & rafters have a H3 rating. This will ensure that your entertainment area can stand the test of time.

Remember that treated pine is *treated* with chemicals, which means that you should always:

- ***Wear gloves and masks while sawing.***
- ***Reseal any cut or sawn surface.***
- ***Dispose of any off-cuts by burying them. Do not burn them.***



### HARDWOOD



Boasting a rich combination of warmth, beauty, and durability, pergolas made with hardwood timber enjoy a long life that requires very little maintenance. Many indigenous hardwoods also provide natural protection against bushfires and termites!

***Choose a local hardwood with a high durability rating (Class 1-2), like Blackbutt, Merbau\* or QLD spotted gum, and remember to use a wood preservative to treat any sections of your pergola that will be underground.***

\*Merbau isn't suitable for in-ground, use stirrups or post supports

## What timber shouldn't I use for a pergola?



While most types of softwood and hardwood are suitable for fencing, untreated pine is not the best option – despite its affordability and accessibility.

This is because untreated pine is more vulnerable to termites and humidity, meaning more long-term maintenance.

While timber sleepers are perfect for a multitude of applications including retaining walls and garden edging, it is in fact illegal to use them when building pergolas. Try using structural grade softwood or hardwood for a top-notch pergola project.

***If you're stuck on what type of timber to go for, give us a call on 07 3888 1293. We'll help you select the right materials for your project.***

***For more information about the price of each timber species, visit our website: [NarangbaTimbers.com.au](http://NarangbaTimbers.com.au)***



## Purchase Your Materials

Once you've decided on what type of pergola to build, here's what you'll need:



Remember: the size of your timber posts will depend on the dimensions laid out in your plan.

Get it all at NBT!



- ☐ **Posts** – use our calculator to find out how much timber you'll need
- ☐ **Fixing devices** – such as framing anchors, coil nails, nuts, and bolts (we recommend hot-dipped galvanized)
- ☐ **Beams**
- ☐ **Galvanised post supports or stirrups**
- ☐ **Rafters**
- ☐ **Concrete mix**
- ☐ **Claw hammer**
- ☐ **Spanner or adjustable wrench**
- ☐ **Screwdriver**
- ☐ **Shovel**
- ☐ **Hand saw or circular saw**
- ☐ **Electric drill**
- ☐ **Tape Measure**
- ☐ **Spirit level**
- ☐ **Pencil**
- ☐ **Builder's line**
- ☐ **Markers pegs**





## *Before building, I have:*

- ☐ Checked for reactive soil (structures built on reactive soil may require specifically-designed footings)
- ☐ Consulted any council regulations
- ☐ Contacted any relevant authorities for building permission

# *Now it's time to build something special!*



### *If you can't pick up the materials, don't worry!*

At Narangba Timbers, we deliver using our own trucks and staff to South-East Queensland – including Brisbane suburbs, Ipswich and Gympie.





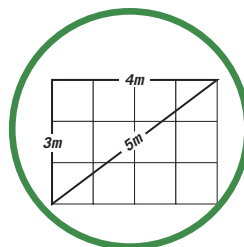
***It's time to build!***

*We're experts in timber pergolas. Our team can dress your timber to size, get your beams ready, and advise on the right timber for your pergola.*

## **STEP 1:**

### **MEASURE OUT YOUR PERGOLA**

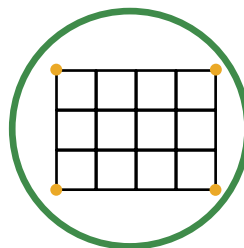
1. Use a builder's line and tape measure to measure out your pergola plan.
2. Mark out the perimeter using line pegs, ensuring that the measurements are consistent with your project plan.



## **STEP 2:**

### **MARK YOUR POSTS**

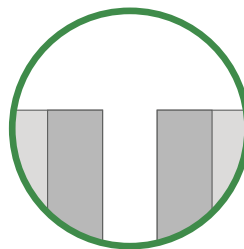
Mark where along the perimeter you want to place the upright posts, ensuring that they are equally spaced.



## **STEP 3:**

### **EXCAVATE THE POST HOLES**

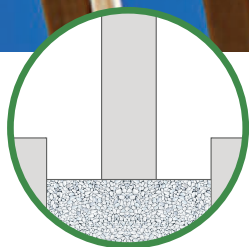
1. Dig post holes where you have placed the line pegs.
2. Ensure that the holes are at least 600mm deep x 300mm wide.





## STEP 4:

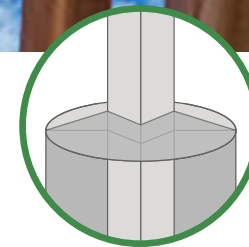
### SET YOUR POSTS



1. Place a brick or gravel at the bottom of each hole.
2. Insert the temporarily braced uprights (using off-cuts) into each hole. Alternatively, you can use post supports that are set into concrete.
3. Use a spirit level to ensure that each post is vertical before filling with concrete.

## STEP 5:

### MIX CONCRETE AND FILL



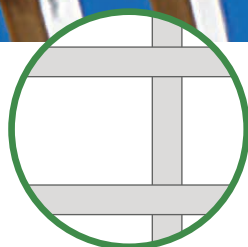
1. Fill in the holes with rapid set concrete mix. This is ideal for setting posts as the setting time is around 30 minutes. To allow for drainage, don't put the posts flush with the bottom of the brackets.
2. Use a string line to make sure that all posts line up, and that they're at the same height. These supports are usually pre-drilled so that the posts can be attached later with coach screws.
3. ensure concrete is higher than ground level and taper away from post to prevent water pooling at the base.

**Note:** If you're not familiar with rapid set concrete, you can use a post mix. This will allow you extra time to align the posts accurately.



## STEP 6:

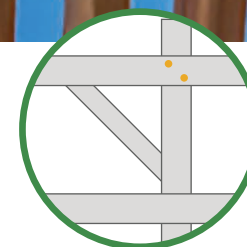
### ATTACH BEAMS



- Attach top and bottom rails to the fence posts, ensuring that they're level.
1. Attach the supporting cross beams, once the concrete has set. The top of each upright post should be cut in half to support each beam.
  2. Drill and bolt these beams to the upright posts.
  3. Cut the top of the upright just a fraction lower than the beam to permit water runoff.

## STEP 7:

### AFFIX RAFTERS



1. Lay your rafters across the beams.
2. Measure equal distances and mark using a pencil.
3. Fix each rafter using galvanised framing anchors, once you have marked equal measurements.



## STEP 8:

### FIXING TO A WALL (OPTIONAL)

If you're fixing your pergola to a wall, you'll need a board or wall plate to attach the rafters to.

1. Fix the board or wall plate to a brick home using masonry anchors. For a weatherboard home, use coach screws and ensure that they're fixed through weatherboards into wall studs.
2. Bolt a beam the same size as the wall plate to the upright posts. Make the height of the beam a fraction lower than the wall plate to allow for water run-off.
3. Attach the rafters to the beam and board / wall plate. You can skew nail, but you'll achieve a cleaner result using galvanised framing anchors.



**Note:** Whichever option you choose, pre-drill each rafter to avoid splitting the timber.

## STEP 9:

### FINISH AND CUSTOMISE

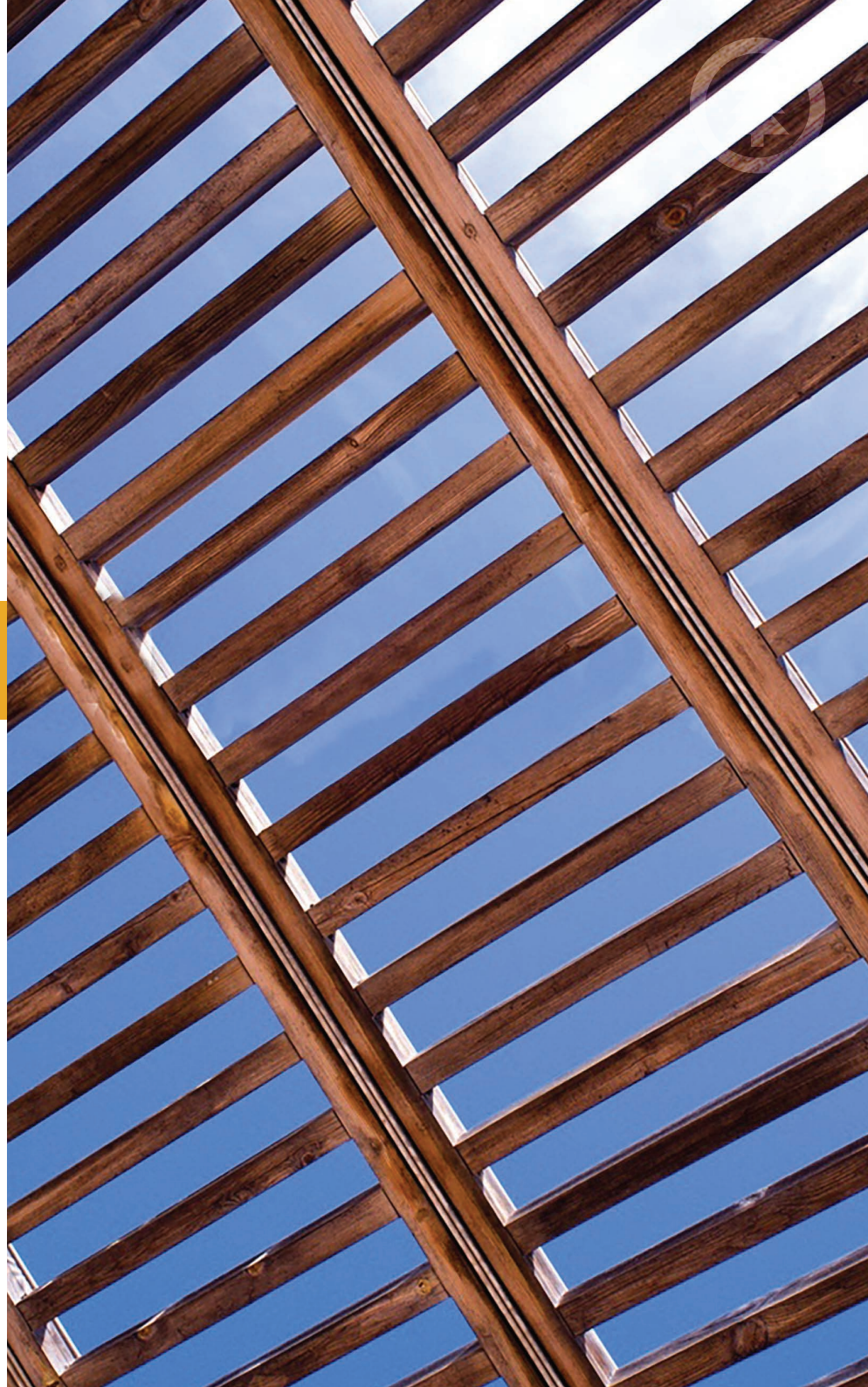
#### ***Congratulations! You've built something special***

All that's left is to add those finishing touches to suit your preferred style and backyard aesthetics.

Don't forget to seal your pergola with paint or stain to preserve the life of the timber.

Use two or three coats of QCoat Outdoor Oil to prevent surface checking and discolouration from weathering.

**Narangba Timbers recommends QCOAT Outdoor Oil!**





## *Pergola hints and tips:*

### **MEASURE TWICE... CUT ONCE!**

*Make sure to double-check all of your measurements and markings before you cut any piece of timber.*

### **SHADE CLOTH**

*Consider adding a shade cloth, battens, or fibreglass sheeting to your pergola. They look great and keep you cool in the summer!*

### **GARAGE**

*Not enough room in the garage to fit your car? You can easily turn a free-standing pergola into a carport by adding a roof and stormwater run-off.*

### **PRIVACY**

*Looking for some added privacy? Balustrades give a pergola a sense of intimacy and privacy. Use either trellis or some other form of balustrade between the pergola posts and leave one or two areas open for access.*







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