



Brief Comparison of Materials

Material	Pros	Cons	Warranty	Price
Pressure Treated Pine ("PTP")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The least expensive of all materials. If you plan to paint your structure, PTP is a good choice. PTP timbers are available in many dimensional widths and lengths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PTP structure generally will not last as long as one made of Western Red Cedar, vinyl, or structural fiberglass. Stained PTP does not look as nice as stained WRC. The two above-mentioned disadvantages can be attenuated by painting the structure. 	None	\$
Western Red Cedar ("WRC")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In North America WRC is by far the most popular wood for exterior structures, sheds, and shingles (siding, roofing) because of its resistance to decay and insect damage. Western Red Cedar contains natural tannins that lead to its durability and natural beauty. People love beautiful looking stained wood, and cedar is no exception. Takes stain very well. WRC timbers are available in many dimensional widths and lengths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRC will turn gray with age (like all wood), unless you stain it every few years. Periodic staining preserve colors and extends the lifespan of the wood. 	10 Year	\$\$
Vinyl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires no maintenance. If you want a white structure, a good choice. <p>Note: vinyl is not structural, so it needs a structural component to make it stable and safe. This structural component is usually PTP, although extruded aluminum may be used too. When you buy a vinyl structure, you are buying a PTP structure with vinyl sleeves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vinyl structures offer only one rafter tail design. The rafter tails are glued on to the end of the rafter creating a visible seam. Vinyl begins to distort at 178°F. Use caution near heat sources. Fabricated in white color only (almond and black available but at price premiums of 35% and 50%). Cannot be painted or repainted years later. Does not look like wood. 	10 Year	\$\$\$

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Material	Pros	Cons	Warranty	Price
Structural Fiberglass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires no maintenance. • Will never rot, corrode, crack, or deteriorate, or be damaged by termites, wood boring bees, or insects. • Can span up to 30 feet between posts, allowing more attractive designs. • Will not begin to distort until 650°F. Excellent choice for desert environments or for structures in the vicinity of heat sources. • Available in any Benjamin Moore or Sherwin Williams color code (the finish is eggshell/satin as opposed to vinyl which has a sheen). • Many widths and styles of posts are available: square, round, tapered round, fluted, and recessed, in widths of 6", 8", 10", 12", 14", etc. • Components are hollow, yet extremely strong (pound for pound stronger than steel). A single column can support over three tons of weight. • Unlike all other materials, structural fiberglass does not expand or contract with changes in temperature. This prevents loosening of fasteners and joints over time and enables the structure to keep its original shape for decades. • Compared to vinyl, has a more modern design, with fiberglass tails carved out of the rafter itself (no glued-on caps like vinyl). • Decorative rafter tails are available in a variety of designs. • Rafters are 2x8, slightly bigger than the 2x6 used in vinyl. • Can be repainted years after purchase. • Truly an investment, rather than a depreciable asset. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most expensive of materials. • Cannot be used to fabricate pavilions (i.e. for pergolas only). 	Lifetime for the structure. Ten years for the finish.	\$\$\$\$



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All materials can be used to fabricate structures that meet your requirements.

Regardless of the material you choose, Pergola Kits USA will create a structure for you that uniquely fits your desired dimension and needs.

Thank you,

The Team at Pergola Kits USA

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