

Pergola vs Pavilion

Pergola



Pavilion



The Pergola:

Is a simple wood structure, with optional base and temporary roof cover:
Canopy, reed, bamboo, vine, or such.

Pros:

It is light, does not necessary need solid concrete slab foundation, but advised.

Easy to assembly, simple, many local codes doesn't require permit, because it considers as a temporary structure.

It can be installed on an existing or new concrete, stone flooring or wood decking with the provided post connector or on the lawn on concrete blocs with wood base and deck.

It does not effected significantly by snow weight or wind push and lift up as it doesn't have permanent roof. Can run vine over, still keep clear for day and night.

Cons:

The wood gets more direct moisture and sunlight; it has a shorter life expectation than the Pavilion.

It needs more care, oil finishing after a couple of years.

Its canopy or temporary roof may have to be taken off for the winter (in snowy areas).

The Pavilion:

It's a permanent wood structure with proper roofing:

Roofing can be asphalt or cedar wood shingles, metal or polycarbonate clear sheet or such.

It has proper, post connectors, main and beam connectors, for structural purposes, snow weight and wind lift-up.

Pros:

It's heavier duty, beefier than the Pergola, has a permanent roof, doesn't have to remove and reinstall every year. More weather resistant as doesn't get direct moisture and sunlight, needs less maintenance. Has wood (cedar) tongue and groove paneling, what gets a gorgeous look as it follows the arches. Looks better, feels better than the pergola. Longer life time, less hassle.

Cons: More complex, probably require permit, It needs proper minimum 4" concrete slab foundation. Needs roofing. The Pavilion option with the tongue and groove paneling is about 30-35% more than the Pergola. With the concrete work and the shingle it can get up 40-50% more than its simple friend.