

## PREPARATION:

### Choosing your location:

A timber pergola is one of the most attractive ways of extending the indoor living area of your home – especially when combined with climbing plants – and will not only offer protection from any harmful summer rays but also allow you to make the most of whatever winter sun is on offer. For best results, the pergola should be sited on an exterior wall of your house that allows access to the outside and in a sunny position to give the 'climbers' the best possible growing conditions.

### Before you start:

- If required, clear & level the site where the pergola is to be positioned
- Make sure there is sufficient space for the fitting of the ledger board on the exterior wall
- Measure the area of ground where the pergola is to be situated, identify where the posts will be and mark their exact position
- Check that there are no underlying utilities (eg: water/gas/drainage or sewerage pipes or electricity cables) that could be damaged
- Check that any windows or doors will not be impeded by the pergola - once assembled

## HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER:

- Building your pergola will be easier if you prepare all tools and materials before you start assembly
- Weather-protect any wood that you have had to cut by staining, painting or using a wood preservative first before fixing them together
- Measuring is easy but materials are expensive. So, double check all measurements and markings before you cut any piece of wood
- When fixing the posts to the post supports use temporary props to hold the posts upright to ensure they are perfectly vertical
- Check with your local council first if you are unsure whether planning permission is required

## TOOLS & MATERIALS:

Here are suggestions of tools & materials required to assemble your pergola.

### Tools:

- Cordless Combi Drill (wood/masonry)
- Set of drill bits for above – both wood and masonry
- Adjustable spanner
- Hand saw (only required if you are customizing your pergola)
- Screwdriver set
- Tape measure
- Spirit level/Plumb line
- Builders Square
- Mallet/Sledgehammer (if using the 'original' spiked post fix system)
- Spade (if using the 'concrete-in' post fix system)
- Step Ladder

### Materials:

- Quick drying concrete mix (needed for the 'concrete-in' post fix system)
- Wood preservative – if you have had to cut any of the timbers to fit your own requirements

## SAFETY:

Building a structure like a pergola is exciting and fulfilling. However, it is important to fully consider and appreciate that while undertaking any such project, that you strictly adhere to all health and safety guidelines and procedures and seek professional trade advice where you are unsure or aware how to proceed. Keep your mind on the job, ask for help where needed and take a break every now and then.

Here are some helpful hints to keep your work space accident free:

- Take your time to do the work carefully and methodically
- Keep all electrical equipment, leads and connections from getting wet or damp
- Unplug or disable all equipment when not in use
- Cover all unfilled holes if they are to be left for any length of time
- Ensure that all children and animals are kept well away from the site
- Check that all your tools are in proper working order and are in good condition
- Do not try and do everything yourself. Ask for help when needed
- Ensure that any ladders you use for the assembly are sturdy and safe for the job
- Keep the site tidy at all times and do not leave any equipment lying around
- Purchase proper safety equipment and use it. Wear safety glasses all the time, protective clothing where necessary and protective footwear and ear protectors when using tools or powered equipment

## DISCLAIMER:

**Important:** Perfect Pergolas Limited has produced this basic information guide on how to assemble and construct your pergola. This information is provided for use on the strict understanding that Perfect Pergolas Limited is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss) for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of using the information contained in these guidelines.

Perfect Pergolas Limited recommends you to contact and seek the full advices of a qualified professional tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required and to independently assess any health and safety precautions that will need to be followed or adhered to prior to using the information provided by this guide.

NB: Please note all drawings are for representative purposes only and are not to scale.



*Bringing the outdoors inside*

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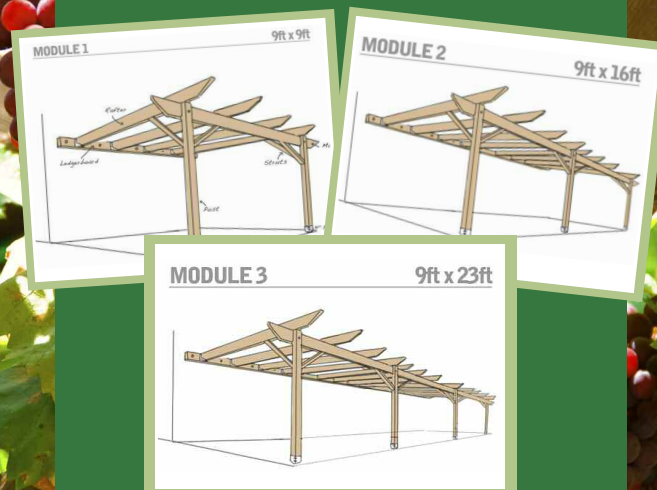
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# PERFECT PERGOLAS™

*Bringing the outdoors inside*

## PERGOLA ASSEMBLY GUIDE

- Simple step-by-step instructions
- Helpful hints
- Tools & materials checklist
- Easy to follow drawings
- Safety considerations



This guide is designed to provide a simple overview of how to assemble your pergola. For more detailed information, please visit our website.

[perfectpergolas.co.uk](http://perfectpergolas.co.uk)

## STEP 1 - SITE PREPARATION:

Clearly layout the full extent of the pergola post footprint (Fig 1) with temporary stakes and string. Lines 1 & 2 should be equal in length as should lines 3 & 4.

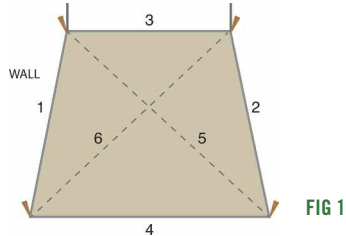


FIG 1

Join the diagonally opposite corners with the string and check that the dimensions are the same length for both lines 5 & 6. This ensures that the site is both parallel and square in relation to itself and the wall. Mark the exact position of where the posts should be set.

## STEP 2 - SETTING THE POSTS:

Depending on which of the three 'options' you have chosen for fixing the posts of your pergola, please follow one of the instructions in Figs 2, 3 or 4. If you have opted for the 'spiked' version, you can purchase one of the 'driving-in' tools from our Accessories section on the website. Once secure, fit posts and tighten. Make sure that the 'notched' top sections of the posts are facing the wall.

### OPTION 1: ORIGINAL SPIKED SYSTEM



FIG 2

Using a sledgehammer and driving tool, carefully place the fixing post on your pre-determined spot and knock into the ground until the box section is level with the ground.



Check the alignment of the fixing post every few strokes to ensure that it is both vertical and square relative to your marked out site.

### OPTION 2: BOLT DOWN SYSTEM

Mark clearly where the holes should be positioned by using the footprint of the 'bolt-down' as a template & then drill accordingly.

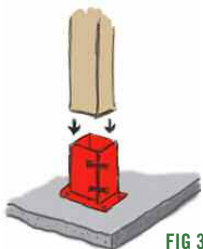


FIG 3

Secure using the specialist bolts provided.

### OPTION 3: CONCRETE-IN SYSTEM

Dig a hole at least 18" x 18" x 18" & fill with quick setting concrete mix. Push in the 'Concrete-in' fixing system so that the box section is just above the level of the concrete, checking with a spirit level that it is both vertical and square, and allow to set.

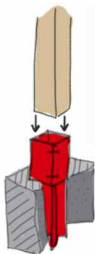


FIG 4

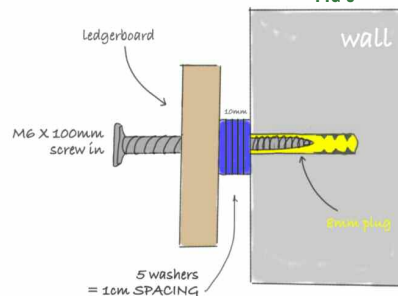
## STEP 3 - ATTACHING TO A WALL:

FIG 5



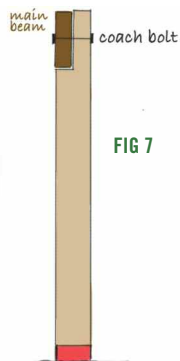
Drill pilot holes in the Ledger board (Fig 5). Mark the wall ready for drilling by using the pre-drilled Ledger board as a template, and a spirit level to ensure it is horizontal, drill into the markings made on the wall to a depth of approx 2" and insert the wall plugs.

FIG 6

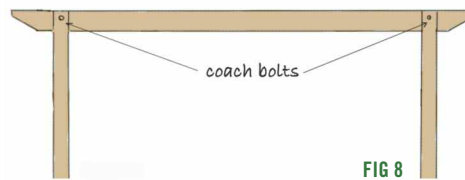


Offer up the Ledger Board to the wall and push the masonry screws through the Ledger board and spacers, lining them up with the wall plugs and screw in tight. (Fig 6)

## STEP 4 - MAIN BEAM:



Line up the pre-drilled holes on the posts and main beams (Fig 7) and thread the coach bolts through the holes and attach using the washer and nut and tighten. Make sure that the dome head of the coach bolt is on the outside of the post (Fig 8).



## STEP 5 - RAFTERS:

Attach the joist hangers to the Ledger board (Fig 9).

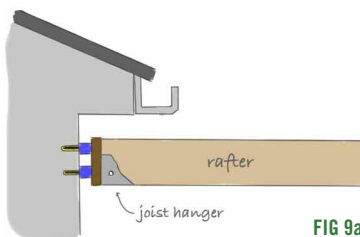
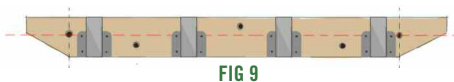


FIG 9a

Fit the rafters in the joist hangers and screw in tightly (Fig 9a). Using a builder's square, make sure that each rafter is straight before final fixing.

## STEP 5 - RAFTERS:

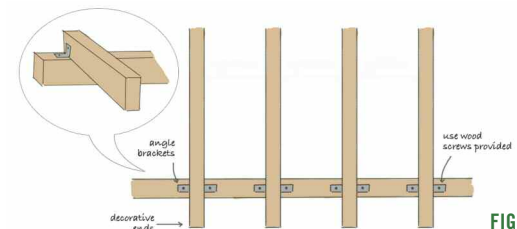


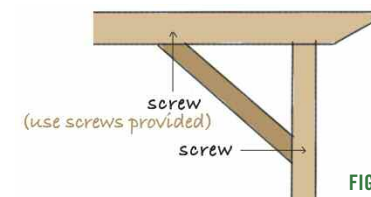
FIG 9b

Lay the other end of the rafter(s) on top of the Main beam and attach with the right angled brackets and screws provided (Fig 9b)

## STEP 6 - STRUTS:

The Struts help strengthen the pergola and add an authentic, rustic look.

Screw in the pre-drilled struts and tighten (Fig 10)



## STEP 7 - LONGER MODULES:

For our longer Modules, the processes for the site layout and the fixing of further Ledger boards, Main beams and Struts follow the same steps as above. When attaching the timber use the fixing plates and extra angle brackets provided. (Figs 11 & 12).

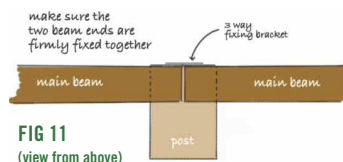


FIG 11

(view from above)

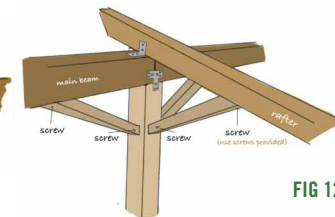


FIG 12

If you would like to 'customise' the length of the pergola to suit your own requirements, please go to [perfectpergolas.co.uk/pergolaplanner](http://perfectpergolas.co.uk/pergolaplanner) and scroll down to the 'Customised Pergola Modules' for more information.

## STEP 8 - FINISH:

Whilst working on a project like this some structural movement is inevitable and a few of the screws may have loosened slightly during the assembly process. So, it is important to re-check that all of the screws are tight.

That's it – your pergola is now up and ready for you to make the most of our longer and warmer summers!

*Enjoy the Outdoor Life!*

The Perfect Pergola team