

BCAB

Building Code Advisory Board of Palm Beach County

TECHNICAL ADVISORY

Issued on 07/17/2024
by Building Code Advisory Board

Subject: Permitting for Owner/Builders who buy pre-fabricated kits for open outdoor Pergolas or canopies and limited to 196 sq. ft. including any overhang.

Purpose: The intent of this advisory is to encourage uniform enforcement of safe and code-compliant installation methods for outdoor residential outdoor backyard Pergolas or canopies purchased as a kit from a retailer. Currently, owner/builders are confused that the kits might not be code compliant and require permitting.

Background: The Building Division and local jurisdictions often receive permit applications from owner/builders with the need to permit the pergola or canopies they bought and did not realize the permitting requirements.

Factors: The kits come complete but often have inferior material or instructions for safe installation. In an effort to assist owner/builders with installation requirements to ensure these structures are code compliant.

Specifically Wind load requirements in FBC 2023 Ch. 16

Each permit application must be thoroughly reviewed for limitations-of-use and design parameters that may restrict the product's use for a particular installation design.

To date, very few of these structures have been validated to meet PBC's design wind loads. Numerous products and systems have installation instructions only but fail to provide design details or product approvals to meet Florida Building Code, and none of those have been able to produce sufficient load-resistance data. Therefore a guideline sheet has been created and vetted by a licensed Florida Professional Engineer to assist owner/builders with the proper installation.

Therefore, the Board strongly advises all those concerned to carefully review these types of permits and systems for compliance with the design wind loads of Palm Beach County. The suggested foundation, demonstrates a continuous structural path capable of transmitting all applicable loads may be acceptable to the AHJ. Use of this suggestive design is at the discretion of the applicant and may not be accepted by the AHJ.

For Building Code Advisory Board:



Edward Lynch, Chair

The Building Code Advisory Board of Palm Beach County was created by a Special Act of the Florida Legislature, at the request of the building code enforcement and construction industries. The purpose of the Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and local governments concerning the adoption of building codes and their enforcement throughout the County. The Act also granted Palm Beach County special powers concerning building codes, in the interest of the public's health, safety and general welfare.

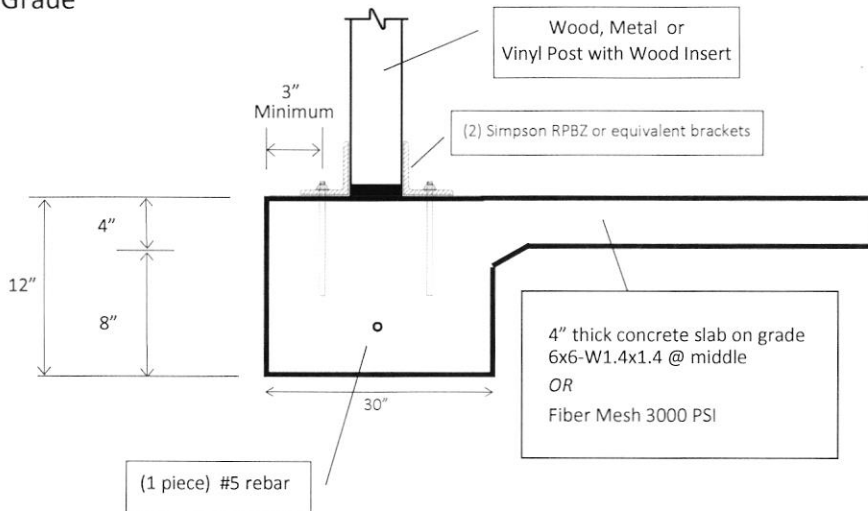
2300 North Jog Road · West Palm Beach, Florida 33411-2741 · 561-233-5101 · FAX 561-233-5020

Maximum Outside Dimensions 14' x 14' Open Structures with Solid Roof

Foundation Options:

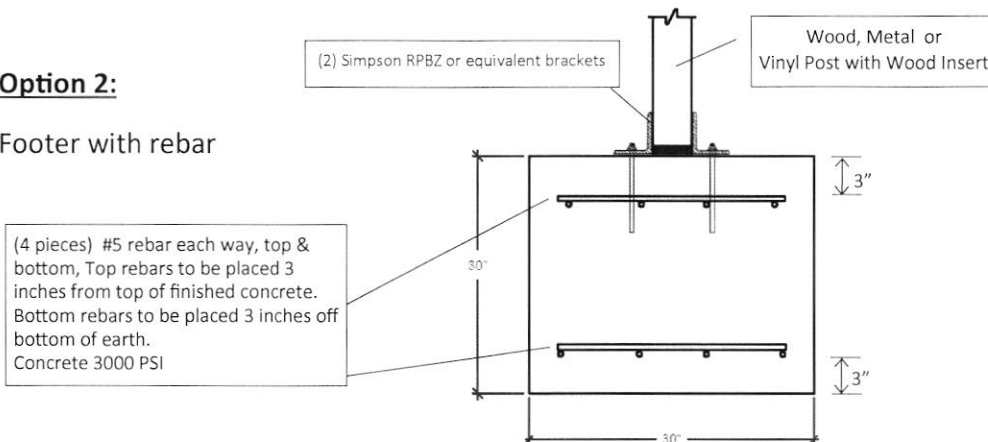
Option 1:

Slab on Grade



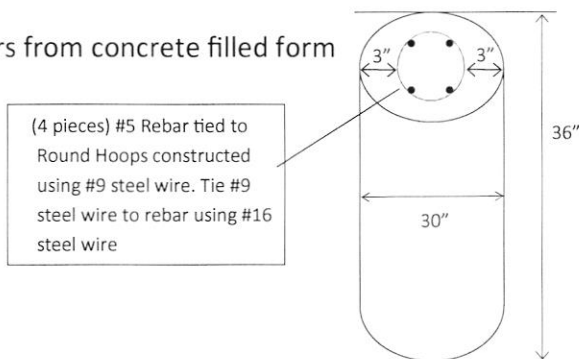
Option 2:

Footer with rebar



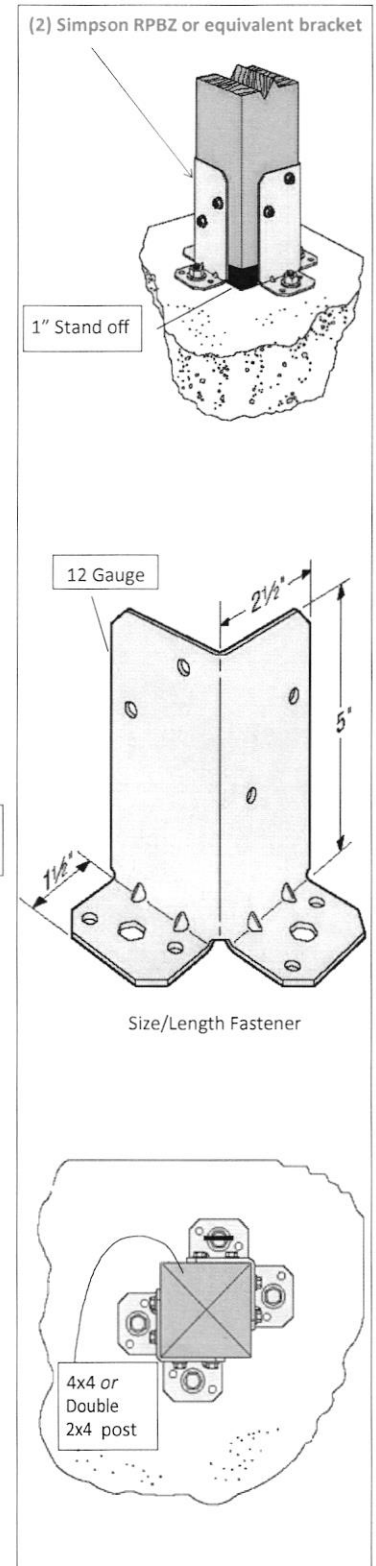
Option 3:

(4) Footers from concrete filled form



Option 4:

Provide drawings from your own Florida registered design professional (Architect or Engineer).



Fastener Hardware

Bracket attachment to concrete

Option A: Bolts $\frac{3}{8}$ " anchor bolts x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Long

Option B: Simpson Titan Turbo Screws $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long

Bracket Attachment to wood post either 4"x4" post or double up 2"x4"s

$\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Simpson SDS or equivalent to the post

$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3" to the concrete base

This prescriptive method is considered a simpler way to comply with Florida Building Code than the performance path, the performance path is most likely to be more complicated with additional burden and expense.

Disclaimer : If you choose to use these guidelines to construct your pergola for non-commercial , residential use only, you are responsible for ensuring your work complies with the Florida Building Code. The Palm Beach County Building Division offers no guarantees implied or otherwise for their use Other approved methods are available to the property owner.