



## TRELLISES, ARBORS, & PERGOLAS ACCESSORY TO A RESIDENCE (Not exceeding 120 sq. ft.)

The California Residential Code specifies work that is exempt from permit in Section 105.2. Included in the exempt work is the following:

*One-story detached accessory structures, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 sq. ft.*

A determination has been made that trellises, arbors, pergolas, and similar non-habitable structures without solid roofs pose no greater hazard than enclosed accessory structures specifically mentioned and exempted from permit. Contra Costa County Building Inspection considers these to be similar uses and therefore exempt from building permits, so long as the "roof" area does not exceed 120 sq. ft.

Exemption from permit requirements shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of Contra Costa County including setbacks, height requirements, easements, and lot coverage. Please check with the planning department, your sanitary provider, and call 811 before you dig.

Below is general construction information for guidance while building trellises:

1. Foundation information:
  - a. Posts to be supported by a minimum 3½" slab or 12" x 12"x 12" spread footings.
  - b. If posts are to be placed into earth, provide 6" of gravel at each post base. Posts must be pressure treated wood, or naturally decay resistant.
  - c. Non-pressure treated posts must be supported by piers or metal pedestals at least 1" above slab.
2. The minimum height of beams above slab shall be 6'-8".
3. The Building Code requires positive connections including header to post, header to rafters, and rafters to ledger.
4. Rafters shall be supported laterally at ends and at each support by solid blocking except where the ends of rafters are face nailed to a header or rim joist.
5. Provide lateral bracing; i.e. embedded posts, knee braces, or other approved method.