

Modifying a Rafter-Only Pergola with Slope

HERCULES SYSTEM

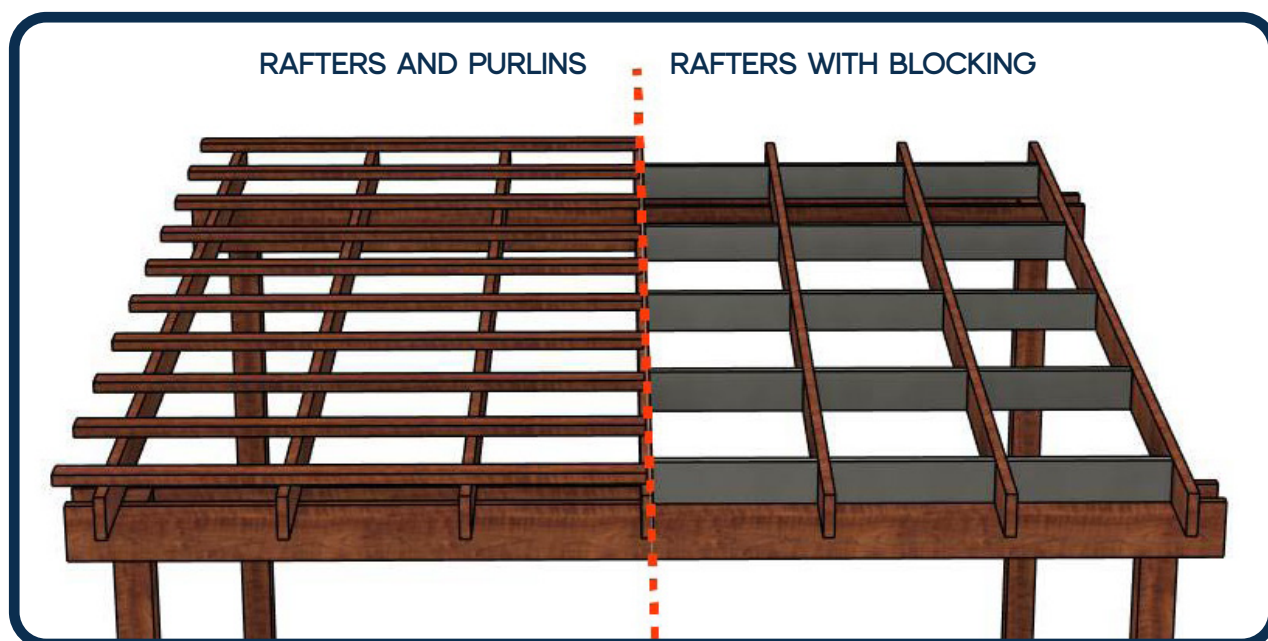
Why does my “rafter only” pergola need modifications?

The Hercules System uses a standing seam design, which means the panels can't be trimmed to fit rafters that aren't spaced just right.

What are my modification options?

The two simplest solutions are adding purlins on top of the rafters or placing blocking between them. There's no real advantage to one over the other—it just comes down to personal preference.

We don't usually recommend moving the rafters. Over time, rafters can bow, and adding purlins or blocking helps provide extra structural support. Plus, moving them can damage the wood, which might mean having to buy new rafters. So sticking with purlins or blocking is usually the better way to go!



Tips for Installing Purlins

- **Purlin Size:** We recommend using 2"x4" boards.
- **Spacing:** Keep them no more than 36" apart—this lines up with the clip spacing and ensures everything attaches securely.
- **Overhang:** No overhang is best, but if you want some, check with your sales rep to make sure it'll work.
- **Attachment:** Always use screws! Nails can pull out in high winds, especially once the cover is attached.

Tips for Using Blocking

- **Blocking Size:** We also recommend 2"x4" boards for blocking.
- **Spacing:** Just like with purlins, keep blocking no more than 36" apart so everything attaches properly.