



5 Common Mistakes Homeowners Make When Selecting a Gazebo or Outdoor Enclosure

Mistake #1: “I drove 100 miles before I saw a gazebo that wasn’t full of knots and splits.”

Most of the examples you see out there won't look THIS bad, but you'll notice cracking and splitting in 95% of the structures you'll see on display.

Using solid 4x4 or 5x5 posts is faster and cheaper than making 3 piece laminated posts.

Experienced builders have found a way to minimize splitting of support posts, **one of the most visible parts of your structure.** They manufacture posts laminating together **three thinner pieces.** It takes more time and care, but produces a much more appealing result.



Solid Post #2 Grade with splits and knots (left) vs. 3x laminated post clear grade no split no knots

Mistake #2: “I took it at face value when the nice guys on the phone, brochure, and video all said it would only take a couple of hours to build my gazebo myself.”

We don't want to talk you out of building your gazebo: many people enjoy it and it's very satisfying. It's just that most of our customers are very busy, and **it's pretty embarrassing for them to have to call someone to finish what they started because it took WAY longer than they thought.**

Mistake #3: “I found out later about shortcuts on the roof and deck.”

Granted, you're probably not going to be jumping up and down on the roof, but nature can be pretty unpredictable. As we recently learned when dozens of tornadoes ripped through inland Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina, most parts of the country is subject to a high winds at times, wether it be from hurricanes, tornadoes, or open plains or lakes. Ours are built like they SHOULD be, instead of cutting corners.

Some builders **skimp on deck boards** by using 5/4" decking which will warp much sooner than 2"x6" decking. Another way to cut corners is to use 2"x4" floor joists and fewer floor joists spaced further apart. 16" on center **should** be the standard, and 2" x 6" floor joists.



2" x 6" Roof Joists Provide Superior Strength Against Wind and Tree Damage. (Double 2" x 4" on smaller gazebos)

Mistake #4: “The price started out OK, but I found out later that I paid WAY too much for the options”

You don't mind paying for quality, but no one likes being tricked. **Does two grand for a paint job on a 16' gazebo sound like a lot to you?** And it's probably a good paint job, but do you really believe it's the same process used to paint your Mercedes?

Mistake #5: “When the salesperson realized I was comparison shopping, he changed his story on what was standard. Their brochure and website both said that the decking was 5/4”, but when I asked, he said it was 2” x 6.”



This “model” has knots and already has splits.

Naturally, everyone wants to get the sale, and anyone can make a gazebo out of 2” x 6” clear premium deck material. Just not everyone chooses to. You're buying something over the phone or internet, and if things don't match up, **you could end up with a pile of lumber in your driveway that isn't what you expected in more ways than one. Knots, twisted posts, short-cuts, missing pieces, the list goes on.**

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