



The Latest Patio Covers Ideas & Materials

Unlike adding a whole new room to your home, patio covers deliver more bang for your buck while creating dramatic change to your livable space. If you're still thinking, "all patio covers are pretty much the same," think again.

Get some fresh inspiration from these trendy ideas and the latest materials.



Awesome Patio Cover Ideas

Louvers

Why decide between a solid roof patio cover or an open-air patio cover when you have the best of both worlds? Louvered patio covers like the Sundance Louvered Roof System are sleek, elegant, and functional. Built on a lightweight but sturdy rust-proof aluminum frame, the Sundance system features a motorized mechanism that can permit as much sun and airflow as you like. Closing the louvers seals out the rain and protects your patio from harsh sunlight. Posts, beams, and louvers are available in many colors, including black, bronze, white, and beige.

Skip to the next section to take a deeper dive into why louvered patio covers are so popular!

Mix-and-match wood colors

If you like the look of a classic wood patio cover but worry it may look “boring,” you’re in luck.

Painting or staining your wood different colors can transform the look of a traditional wood patio cover.

High contrast paint colors can make your patio cover accents pop, or make the cover look like a seamless architectural extension of your home.

Meanwhile, stains bring out the richness of lumber’s natural grain while adding a new tone to your wood.

The best news? You can buy a custom patio cover kit! J&W Lumber offers custom wood patio cover kits that include all the lumber, hardware, and stain you’ll need.

Contrasting hardware

In the past, homeowners wanted to hide connector hardware as much as possible, but today that's all changed. Manufacturers are making attractive, outdoor-rated hardware that is meant to be seen. Black hardware looks great against posts and beams painted white or creates an instant industrial aesthetic when paired with stained lumber.

LINX System

Though technically a free-standing pergola, the LINX system is an easy-to-assemble kit that can be used as a patio cover. This innovative, squared-off design offers a modern look that departs from the sloping rooflines seen in most traditional patio covers.

LINX patio cover kits are easy to assemble for DIYers with limited experience working with lumber. Made from high-grade, weatherproof steel, LINX is a set of simple square connectors that allow you to build your own patio cover or other backyard structures of your choice.



Laser-cut panels

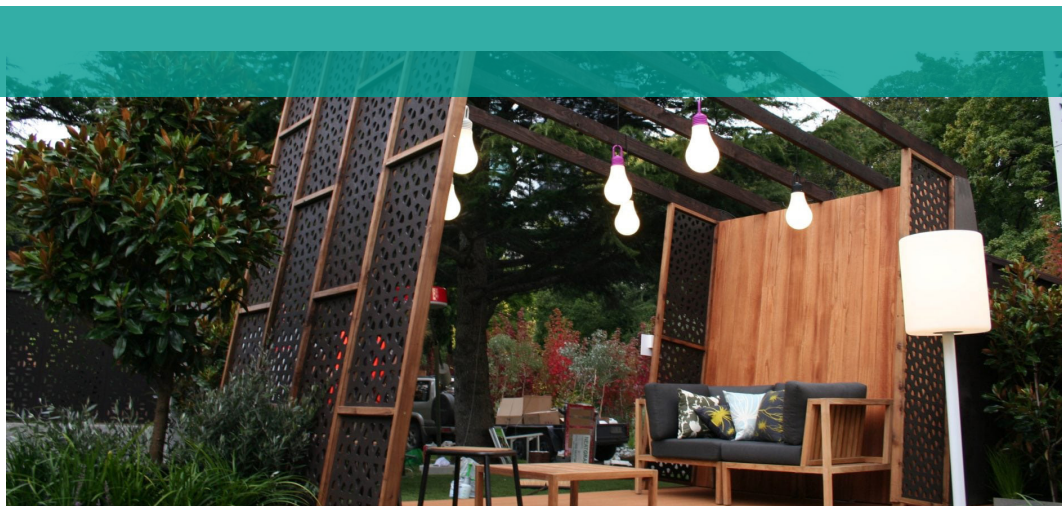
Decorative screen panels like OutDeco or Modinex are laser-cut panels that look great when affixed to the side of a wall or fence, but they can also be used to complement a patio cover.

Attach these decorative panels to the sides of your patio cover to add privacy or use panels as patio cover roofing to create a unique shade pattern on your patio.

“Stone” posts

Create a handsome, manor-style look by facing wood posts with Versetta manufactured stone siding. This man-made material is a lightweight alternative meant to mimic stone but it’s a lot easier to manage.

The fronts of these “stones” look like rock, but the backs feature an interlocking system requiring no mortar, making installation much less complicated than using true rock. Versetta can also be cut with a table saw, so no special stone-cutting tools are required.

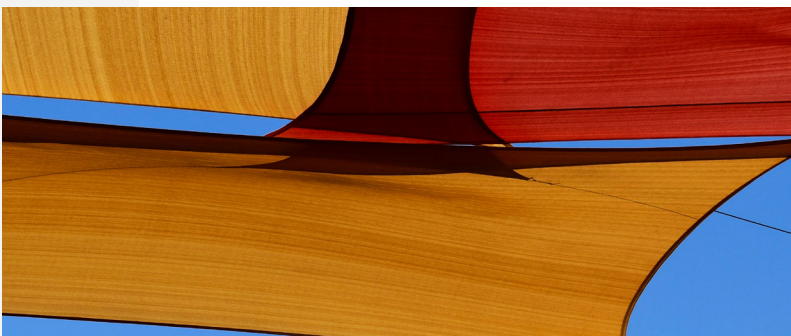


Functional accents

Your patio cover is more than four posts and a roof. Incorporating useful but attractive features can transform how you use the space. Here are a few creative ideas:

- Colorful shade cloth
- Wild Hog mesh for climbing vines
- Ceiling lighting rated for outdoors

The great thing about patio covers is that you don't have to do everything at once. You may decide to install a basic skeleton and add features over time as your needs or tastes evolve. No matter what, a well-built patio cover enables you to take full advantage of your space for your favorite outdoor activities.

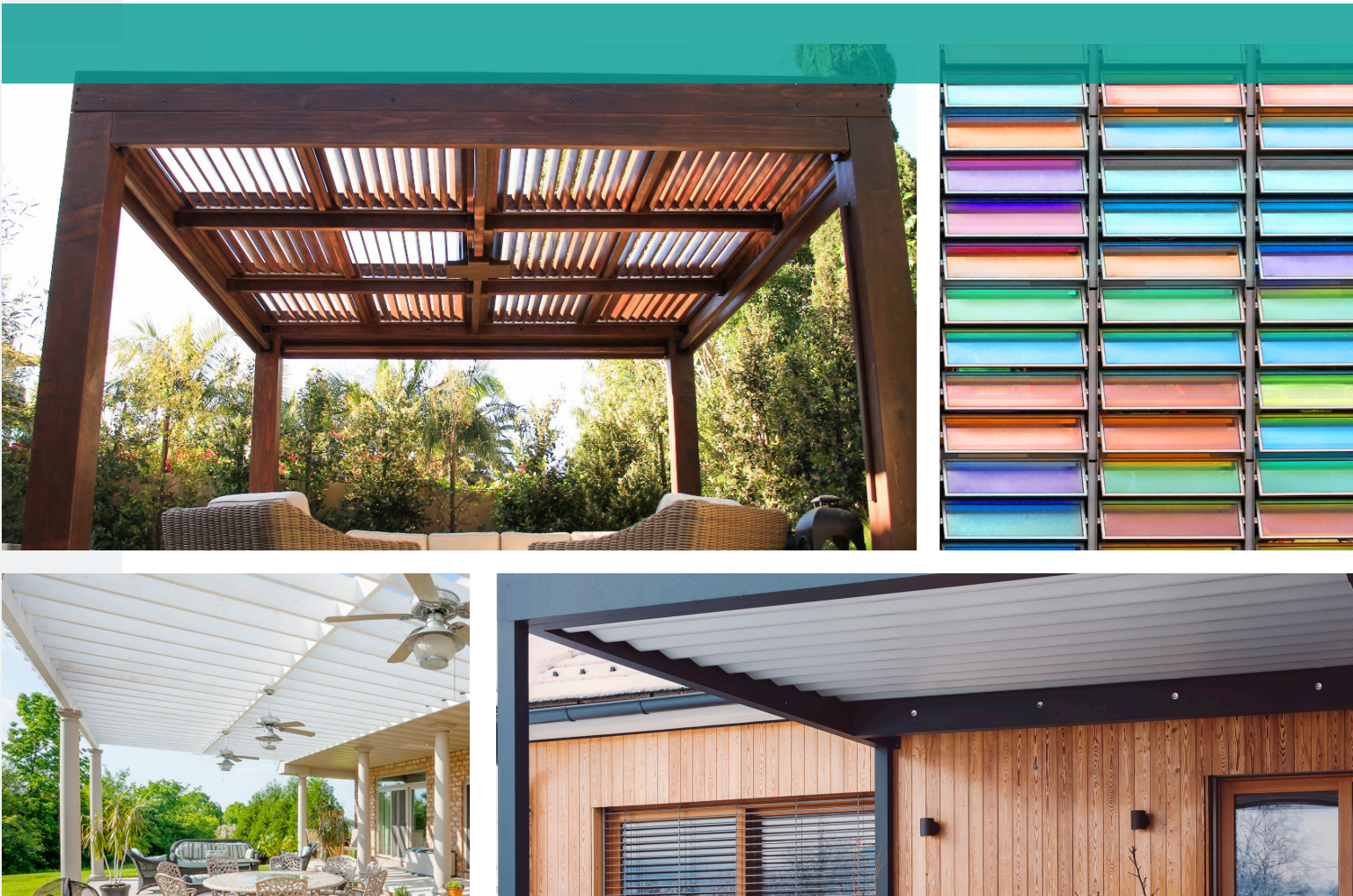


What's Trending in Patio Covers? Louvered Patio Covers

Southern California's perfect temperatures and low rainfall make this the ideal area to take advantage of indoor/outdoor living, working, and relaxing.

There's an exciting new patio cover on the market that delivers the best of both worlds: Sundance Louvered Roofs, featuring remote-controlled automatic louvers.

Here's what you should know about this innovative new system:



Unmatched versatility

The primary benefit of installing a louvered patio cover system is to control the amount of sunlight, rain, and breeze you permit on your patio. These patio covers allow you to seal the louvers shut — which makes the patio cover water-tight — or open them at any preferred angle to permit more sunlight, moonlight, or even rain.

Here's a video showcasing the louvers in action.

Low maintenance

Sundance louvered patio covers are manufactured from rust-proof aluminum, which stands up to the stresses of Southern California's sun, salt air, rain, wind, moisture, and ground pests.

Unlike lumber — which must be stripped, sanded, and repainted or stained every few years — aluminum requires very little ongoing maintenance. This type of system is ideal for those who prefer not to perform extensive maintenance on their patio cover, or for vacation rental owners who want to “set it and forget it.”

Multi-year warranty

Sundance is a trusted brand whose patio cover systems have been tested extensively and proven to perform well over time. Sundance is so confident in their USA-made products, they offer a 10-year warranty on the patio cover itself, and a separate 5-year warranty on electronic components.

Style-neutral

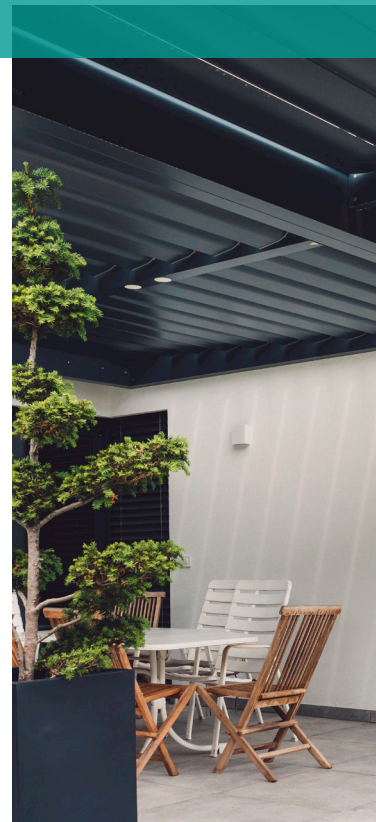
From beach houses to mountain cabins, Spanish-style villas, modern bungalows, and even Cape Cod cottages, Southern California is well-known for its variety of homes spanning the style spectrum. Sundance Louvered Roofs are free from busy details and therefore complement many different architectural styles. Posts come pre-painted in a variety of attractive neutrals (both light and dark), so you can select a similar color palette to your home, or mix and match posts, beam, and louver colors for a greater “wow” factor.

Standard electrical installation

No need to worry whether this system will require a complex new electrical install. Sundance Louvered Roofs use low-voltage transformers and plug into standard outlets. Hollow aluminum posts enable you to run cabling inside to create a clean look with limited exposed electrical. If you decide to divide your patio cover into multiple sections, structural crossbeams are also hollow, creating the ideal spot to install a ceiling fan or hanging lamp.

Patio covers of the future

Adjustable louvered patio covers are trending in the market and becoming more popular each year. Their mechanical versatility turns seasonal outdoor spaces into year-round gathering spots. Meanwhile, their stylistic neutrality means they will complement nearly every home design.



The Latest in Patio Cover Materials: Aluminum vs Wood

If you are wondering about the differences between aluminum and wood patio covers, you're not alone. Both look stylish, protect against the weather, and won't break your bank.

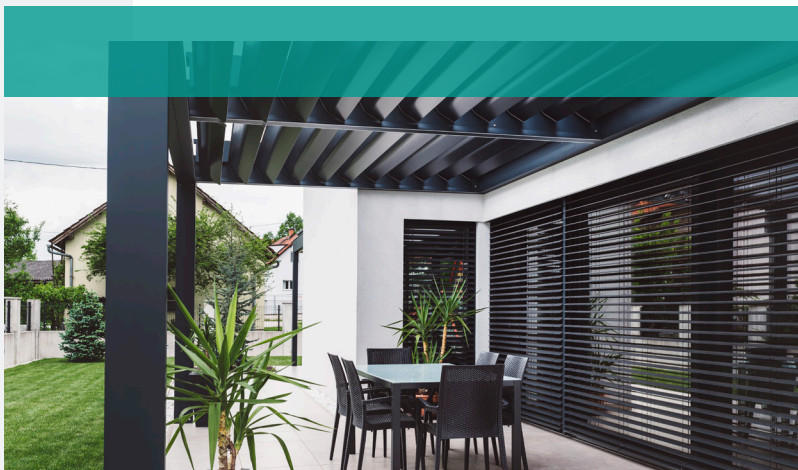
So, which is right for you?

We do a quick comparison to show you the pros and cons of each.

Aluminum

Aluminum patio covers have come a long way since they first hit the market. New designs and fresh features have pushed aside the old misperceptions of aluminum patio covers as flimsy or cheap.

Traditionally designed aluminum patio covers today are stylish options for homeowners who don't want to spend too much time maintaining their patio cover – and are priced comparably to wood. There is also a new modern looking aluminum cover option that features a thicker, more durable framework that can instantly elevate the look of your outdoor space.



The pros:

- **Low maintenance** Unlike wood, aluminum isn't subject to natural wear from heat, moisture, or pests.
- **Lightweight** Aluminum posts and beams are much lighter than lumber, making these patio covers easier to install with a smaller crew.
- **Mimics the look of wood** Some brands of aluminum patio cover feature thicker gauge metal embossed to look like wood.
- **Pre-painted** Aluminum patio covers are already painted in popular outdoor colors, saving you the extra steps of sanding, priming, and painting.
- **Wider spans** Because of its lightweight nature, aluminum patio cover posts can be placed slightly wider apart than wood.
- **New motorized louvers** are a unique aluminum system that allows you to instantly adjust the angle of the louvers using a remote control.
- **Easily install electrical** Hollow aluminum posts make it easier to hide electrical wiring for lights, fans, or other patio cover accessories.
- **Fire-resistant** Aluminum patio covers won't burn, which makes them an ideal option for high-fire risk areas.

The cons:

- **Susceptible to denting** The trade-off of lightweight aluminum is that these traditional covers dent more easily than wood. This is something to be aware of if you're planning to place your patio cover in high-traffic areas.

**Pro tip:* The new, thicker aluminum cover design option is less prone to denting.

- **Custom paint matching required** Because aluminum patio covers are pre-painted, should an area get damaged, you will need to match your paint to the pre-painted aluminum.



Wood Patio Covers

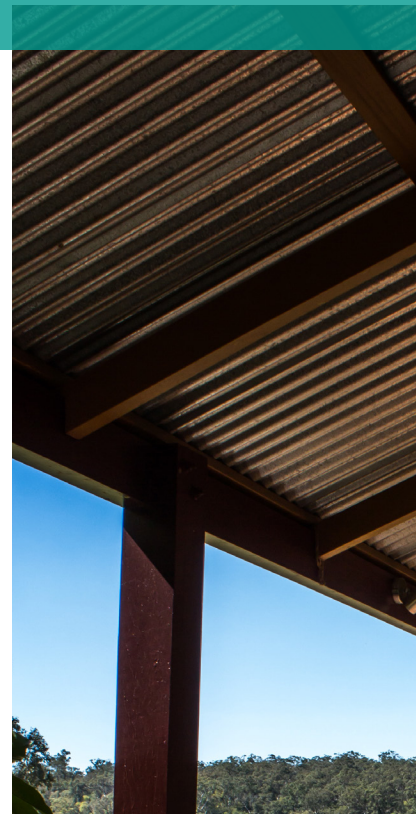
Lumber delivers the classic look most of us think of when we think of patio covers. Wood is often the go-to choice for homebuilders and DIYers – for lots of great reasons.

The pros:

- **Infinitely customizable** Unlike aluminum patio cover systems, your wood patio cover can look exactly how you desire. Changing the posts and corbels or attaching unique materials like Wild Hog fencing or laser-cut modular panels can create a one-of-a-kind statement piece.
- **Natural materials** Most patio covers are made from California redwood, Western Red Cedar, or Rough Doug Fir. These are renewable, responsibly grown materials that will eventually biodegrade.
- **Warm, attractive aesthetic** There's a reason some lines of aluminum patio cover try to mimic the look of wood. The grain in wood creates an inviting look that instantly conveys natural luxury.
- **Can be easier to install** Certain wood designs, like the LINX Pergola System, enable you to simply inset wood posts into sturdy metal connectors and construct a free-standing patio cover in a few short hours.
- **Contrasting hardware** Aluminum patio systems contain everything you need for installation, with hardware typically hidden. Attractive, outdoor-rated black hardware can be installed for a unique look that blends natural materials with industrial accents.
- **Easier to update in the future** While self-contained aluminum patio cover systems provide less leeway for addition or customization in the future, wood patio covers are easier to update as your tastes change.

The cons:

- **Requires more maintenance** Wood must be tended to every few years to keep it looking fresh and maintain its structural integrity. That means sanding, staining, and/or painting, which can be a big job.
- **Susceptible to decay** Like every natural material, wood can break down when exposed to moisture, heat, sunlight, salt air, and pests. Preventative maintenance is key.
- **Can burn in fire** Unless treated with special flame-resistant chemicals, wood patio covers do not resist fire.



The Verdict

So, which is best for you: aluminum or wood patio covers?

Aluminum patio covers look great and require less maintenance.

Wood patio covers are more customizable and deliver a classic look.



No matter which option you choose, it's nearly impossible to make the wrong decision, since both types of patio cover will look great and stay strong for years to come.

Ready to get started on your patio project but want to speak to the specialists about your ideas? Stop into your local J&W Lumber and ask for the “Patio Cover Specialist” on duty.

El Cajon

430 S. Marshall Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: 619-442-0658
Fax: 619-442-8749

Murrieta

25217 Jefferson Ave
Murrieta, CA 92562
Phone: 951-698-0215
Fax: 951-677-7687

Sorrento Valley

11135 Sorrento Valley Rd.
San Diego, CA 92121
Phone: 858-452-0520
Fax: 858-452-0506

Chula Vista

3817 Main St.
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Phone: 619-585-3620
Fax: 619-585-4746

San Marcos

2709 S. Santa Fe Ave.
San Marcos, CA 92069
Phone: 760-727-1510
Fax: 760-727-3557

Escondido/Corporate

1179 W. Washington Ave
Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: 760-745-6800
Fax: 760-747-1787

jwlumber.com