

## Plumbing Practice Note GF-02: Type A Residential Cooking Appliances

This Practice Note specifies the requirements for non-combustible surface requirements and clearances for Type A residential cooking appliances.

The context below provides guidance for:

- Protection of combustible surfaces near a domestic gas cooking appliance
- Installation requirements where clearances are less than 200mm for stainless steel, toughened safety glass, ceramic tiles, reconstituted stone, and other material.



For more information about fire resistant facing materials and clearances around appliances, refer to ESV's Gas Information Sheets located at: <https://esv.vic.gov.au/gas-technical-information-sheets/>

### Overview

Serious incidents have the potential to occur if a fire starts in a wall behind a cooking appliance. In such incidents, the equipment was usually located directly against a wall which was presumed to be non-combustible due to the wall being tiled or covered with stainless steel. However, over time heat passing through the tiles or the stainless steel can cause the framing material from within the wall to ignite.

If a wall is presumed to be non-combustible as the wall is covered with ceramic tiles, glass, reconstituted stone, or sheet metal it must be checked to ensure it is not constructed internally or externally from combustible materials.

For commercial catering equipment installed in a residential dwelling, coverings such as plasterboard, ceramic tiles or sheet metal on a combustible wall surface will not provide adequate heat protection. Gasfitters should refer to 'AS/NZS 5601.1 Cl 6.10.15 Commercial catering equipment in residential premises' for specific installation requirements.

### Protection of combustible surfaces near a domestic gas cooking appliance

Walls containing or constructed from combustible materials can, if necessary, be protected. One method is to use a fire-resistant material that complies with the requirements of AS/NZS 5601.1.

The following information applies to cooking appliances in residential premises only. Special care must be taken when stainless steel, toughened glass, reconstituted stone, or any other material is to be used as a wall covering near a gas cooking appliance.

Providing the clearance from the edge of the nearest burner to the wall surface is 200 mm or greater the installation will be deemed acceptable.

Refer to AS/NZS 5601.1 Cl 6.10.1 Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances, for specific installation requirements.

## Installation requirements where clearances are less than 200mm

### Stainless steel

- a) the wall behind must not contain combustible materials; or
- b) the surface of the wall is to be protected as per AS/NZS 5601.1, Clause 6.10.1.2 & Table C1 in Appendix C.

### Toughened safety glass

- a) If the glass is to be fixed to a combustible surface, that surface is to be protected as per AS/NZS 5601.1, Clause 6.10.1.2 & Table C1 in Appendix C; and
- b) The toughened safety glass must be marked that it is toughened safety glass, indicating that it is fit for the intended purpose and that it complies with AS/NZS 2208

### Reconstituted Stone

- a) Reconstituted stone, while highly durable, is usually made of stone powder bonded with a polyester resin that can burn, and so may be unsuitable for use without a suitable clearance around the cooker or hotplate.
- b) The material, when placed directly on a combustible surface to offer protection (for example directly onto a timber stud), must have a heat transfer coefficient not exceeding 20W/m<sup>2</sup>.
- c) Reconstituted stone products that claim to be fire resistant must comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 5601 Appendix C to be considered fire resistant.

### Other material and systems

- a) Satisfy the temperature requirements in AS/NZS 5601.1, Clause 6.2.5
- b) Materials proposed for use as fire resistant that are not already considered by AS/NZS 5601 Appendix C must be independently tested for compliance with the Australian Standard.

## Additional Considerations

Adequate protection of the combustible surface can be provided using a fire-resistant material that complies with AS/NZS 5601.1, Appendix C.

The intent of the clause will also be met if documentation is provided to the effect that the glass fixing method will ensure that, during normal operation, the temperature of the combustible surface will not exceed 65°C above ambient, at the installed clearance.

Documentation must be in the form of a letter provided by the glass manufacturer stating that the glass is fit for purpose and accompanied by test results from an accredited testing laboratory stating that the combustible surface has not exceeded 65°C above ambient at the installed clearance during normal operation.

This requirement does not deal with the failure of the glass due to any 'thermal shock' or loss of 'temper'. The installer must check that the glass is fit for purpose with respect to shattering or cracking. Documentation may be required to be provided by the installer that the glass is fit for purpose.



For more information, please contact ESV by phoning 1800 652 563 (the Gas Technical Helpline) or emailing [gastechnicalenquiry@energysafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:gastechnicalenquiry@energysafe.vic.gov.au)

## Related Documentation

- Plumbing Practice Note GF-01: Allowable leakage rates for existing standard gas installations with a metering pressure of 1.13 kPA
- Plumbing Practice Note GF-03: Natural Gas Type A Installations – Gas Heating Appliance Installed in a Roof

## Contact Us

If you have a technical enquiry, please email [technicalenquiry@vba.vic.gov.au](mailto:technicalenquiry@vba.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 815 127.

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