



Glass splashbacks have become a popular choice for wall finishes in various locations in the home. One common location is in the kitchen, notably near gas cooktops. Gas burners get plenty of attention, thanks to the fact that they operate using a naked flame.

When splashbacks are located near gas appliances, they will be subject to heat and this can lead to some unwelcome consequences. Plumbers and builders may overlook the possibility of fire hazards which can lead to non-compliant installations. To deal with these potential consequences, there are some specific clearance requirements for the installation of glass splashbacks adjacent to gas cooking appliances.

### How much minimum clearance is required?

The installation of gas appliances such as stoves and cooktops are covered by *Australian Standard (AS) 5601.1:2013: Gas installations – General installations*. In relation to splashbacks, this standard identifies areas surrounding the stove/cooktop which may be at risk of combustion and specifies minimum requirements to deal with this risk.

The risk is mitigated if the wall is constructed from non-combustible material. If the wall is constructed from combustible material, such as plaster board then it is required that the surface temperature of the combustible surface be prevented from reaching 65° C above ambient.

The standard further identifies the wall surface within 200 mm of the nearest edge of a gas burner as being at potential risk. **In this case, AS 5601.1 requires the wall (within 200 mm) be protected to a height of not less than 150 mm above the periphery of the nearest gas burner.** The standard specifies the following as acceptable methods for protection of combustible surfaces:

- Using ceramic tiles of minimum 5 mm thickness as a facing material to the wall.
- Using toughened safety glass of minimum 5 mm thickness as a facing material to the wall. It is to be ensured that the glass complies with AS/NZS 2208 and approved by the supplier to be fit for purpose or application.
- Using fire resistant material on the surface and covering it with a sheet metal of minimum 0.4 mm thickness.

### Note:

1. *The installation specifications of the appliance manufacturers circumvent these minimum requirements if the appliance needs greater clearance or surface protection.*
2. *These restrictions are applicable for gas cooking appliances and do not intend to provide any restrictions for electric cooktops. However, AGWA recommend similar provisions should apply.*



Disclaimer: This key message has been developed to provide general guidance, awareness and education to AGWA members only. It should not be viewed as a definitive guide and should be read in conjunction with the requirements of the National Construction Code (Visit [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)). While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate the AGWA expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person for anything done in reliance on this publication. No responsibility is accepted by the AGWA for any mistakes, errors or omissions in this publication.

### Australian Glass and Window Association (AGWA)

a: Pymble Corporate Centre, Suite 1, Level 1, Building 1, 20 Bridge Street, Pymble NSW 2073  
t: +61 2 9498 2768 f: +61 2 9498 3816 e: [info@agwa.com.au](mailto:info@agwa.com.au) w: [www.agwa.com.au](http://www.agwa.com.au)