



INFORMATION SHEET

BUILDING SERVICES

NAT BCA 12-11

Splashbacks – Compliance with gas regulations (Nat)

Members must be aware of the requirements when using glass or stainless steel splashbacks adjacent to gas cook tops.

These materials are popular with modern home designs and many builders and designers believe they are non-combustible materials and hence are acceptable.

Both of these materials conduct heat and if too close to the gas burner will transfer heat to the unprotected substrate material or timber framing that can have disastrous results.

The relevant Australian Standard AS/NZS 5601 has specific requirements in relation to temperature limitation on nearby combustible surfaces. AS/NZS 5601 requires *“a gas appliance shall be installed such that the surface temperature of any nearby combustible surface will not exceed 65°C above ambient.”*¹

To meet this requirement the Standard provides the following methods:

- If the clearance between the nearest gas burner to the glass or stainless steel splashback is 200mm or more, then the installation is OK
- If the clearance is less than 200mm one of the following is required:
 - “Fixing of ceramic tiles with a minimum thickness of 5mm to the surface
 - Fixing toughened glass with a minimum thickness of 5mm to the surface, provided the glass is approved by the manufacturer to be suitable for the purpose or application
 - Attaching fire resistant material to the surface and covering with sheet metal with a minimum thickness of 0.4mm”

Always refer to manufacturer’s recommendations and installation instructions to ensure that the material is suitable to be used as a splashback adjacent to a gas cook top.

Members should also enquire with the building certifier or gas fitter as to whether there are any State or Local Government Authority requirements that they need to abide by. HIA Building Services staff can also advise you if there are extra requirements that you must adhere to in your state.

For further information HIA members can contact HIA’s Building Services staff on 1300 650 620 or hia_technical@hia.com.au.

¹ AS/NZS 5601 – 2002 Gas installations Clause 5.2.7 and AS/NZS 5601.1 – 2010 Gas installations *Part 1 General Installations* Clause 6.2.5
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