

# GLASS SPLASHBACK REQUIREMENTS CLOSE TO GAS STOVETOPS

Glass splashbacks have become a popular choice for wall finishes in various locations in houses. When splashbacks are located near gas stove tops they will be subject to heat and this can lead to some unwelcome consequences. To deal with these potential consequences there are some specific requirements.

The installation of gas appliances such as stoves are covered by AS5601.1 2010 Gas installations – General installations. In relation to splashbacks this standard identifies areas surrounding the stove which may be at risk of combustion and specifies 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 then it is required that the surface temperature of the combustible surface be prevented from reaching 65 degC above ambient.

The standard further identifies the wall surface within 200mm of the nearest edge of a gas burner as being at risk. In this case AS5601.1 requires that the wall be protected. The standard says that suitable protection can be achieved using 5mm toughened glass as long as the glass is approved by the supplier as suitable for the application.

The use of 5mm toughened glass is not suitable for this application because it will not prevent the surface underneath the glass reaching 65 degrees above ambient. The use of a glass splashback on a wall made from a combustible material can result in the gas supply authority refusing to supply gas to the property until the situation is rectified.

This situation can be avoided by constructing the wall from a non combustible material. The glass can be safely secured to this wall without the need for the glass to protect the surface of the wall reaching 65 degC above

ambient.

Consideration should also be given to how the glass will react to the applied heat and how any coatings or paints may react to the applied heat.

It is recommended that the relevant Sections of AS5601.1 be studied because this document is not a replacement for the content of the standard.

The HIA have produced an information sheet titled "Splashbacks – Compliance with gas regulations", Nat BCA 12-11 which provides information on the wall requirement. [Click here](#) to download this document available on the AGGA website.

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