

# COOKTOPS

## LOCATION & CLEARANCE SPACE

### Overview

The safe use of a gas or electric cooktop in your home relies on a careful installation, appropriate materials above the surface of the cooktop and continued maintenance of the appliance.

To reduce the risk of a fire spreading beyond cooking surfaces of your appliance, minimum clearances are required between the level of cooktop burners or elements and combustible materials above, as prescribed in the current edition of the National Building Code –Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)).

### When you need a permit

You may need a permit if you are installing a new cooktop or renovating your kitchen. As the homeowner, you are responsible for getting all required permits.

[Learn where to purchase a permit in your area](#)

Check with your municipality to find out what permits are required. Some restrictions may apply. Make sure you get your permit(s) before starting your project.

### Requirements for installation

Natural gas and propane cooktops must be installed in accordance with the gas regulations made under the Safety Codes Act.

Electrical cooktop installations shall conform to the electric regulations made under the Safety Codes Act.

Clearances for and protection around gas, propane and electric cooktops shall be not less than the clearances provided in the NBC(AE) .

### Combustible material clearances

Clearances around the cooktop are required in order to prevent or limit the chance that heat radiating from the cooktop will ignite nearby combustible materials, as well as reduce the chance that a fire on the cooktop will spread



# SAFETY TIPS

## COOKTOPS - LOCATION & CLEARANCE SPACE

### Vertical clearances above cooktops

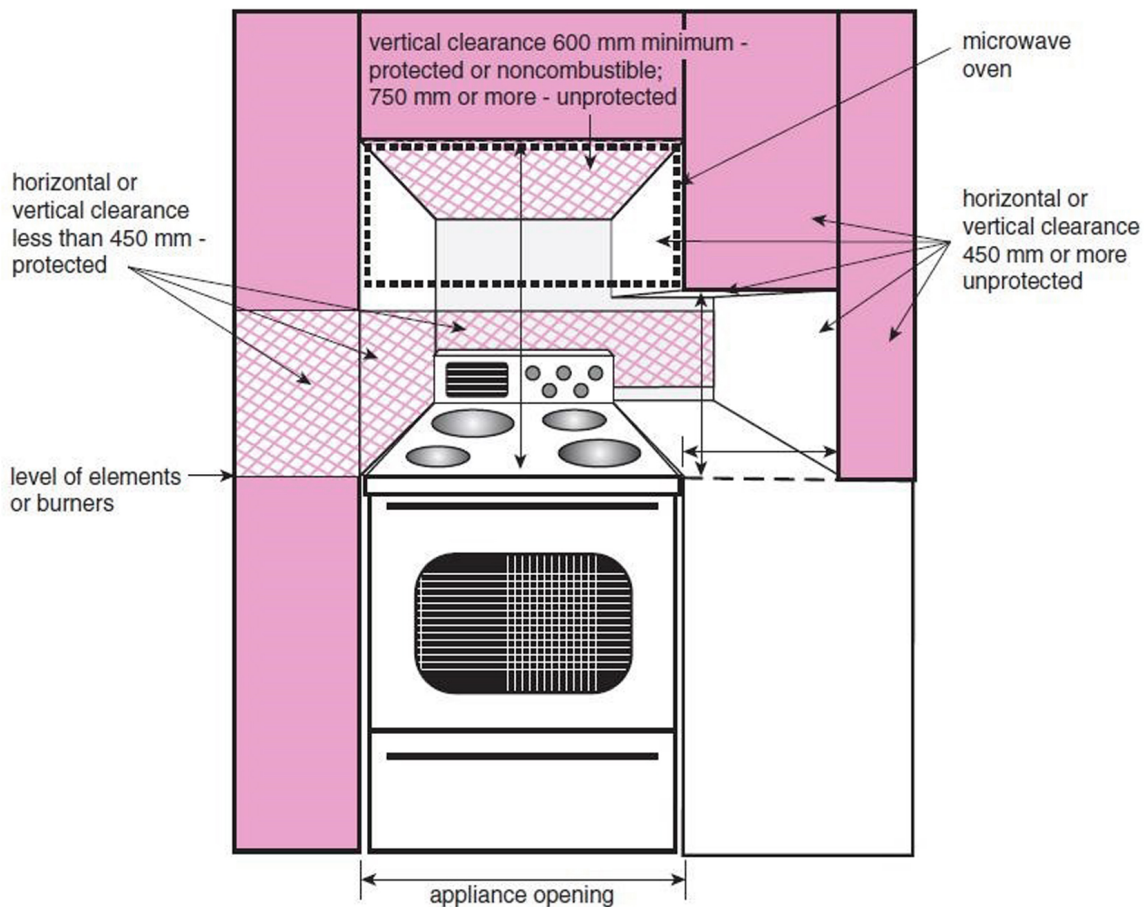
The minimum clearance required directly above the location of the cooktop is 750 mm (30 inches) from the level of the cooktop burners or elements to framing, finishes and cabinetry.

The clearance required between the level of cooktop burners or elements and framing, finishes and cabinetry directly above the cooktop can be reduced to 600 mm (24 inches) where the framing, finishes and cabinets are non-combustible, or are protected by a metal hood with a 125 mm (5 inches) projection beyond the framing, finishes and cabinets.

### Protection around cooktops

Cabinetry adjacent to the cooktop and located 450 mm (18 inches) above the level of the elements or counter-top splash boards or back plates that extend above the level of heating elements do not require additional protection.

Combustible wall framing, finishes or cabinets within 450 mm (18 inches) of the area where the cooktop is located shall be protected above the level of the heating elements or burners by a material providing fire resistance at least equivalent to that of a 9.5 mm (3/8 inches) thickness of gypsum board. Counter-top splash boards or back plates that extend above the level of heating elements or burners do not require this protection.



# SAFETY TIPS

## COOKTOPS - LOCATION & CLEARANCE SPACE

---

### Contact

#### Community and Technical Support branch of Municipal Affairs:

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Toll free: 1-866-421-6929

Email: [safety.services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safety.services@gov.ab.ca)

#### Safety Codes Council:

Toll free: 1-888-413-0099 (within Alberta)

Email: [sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca)

Web: [safetycodes.ab.ca](http://safetycodes.ab.ca)

#### Alberta Safety Codes Authority:

Toll free: 1-888-413-0099 (within Alberta)

Email: [askasca@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:askasca@safetycodes.ab.ca)

