

Gasfitting GF 03 | Gas heating appliances installed in a roof space

Audience

The audience/s for this Practice Note include/s:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Builders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plumbers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Surveyors/ Inspectors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Real estate management agents |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trades and Maintenance (inc. Electricians) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeowners / Residential Tenants | |

Purpose

This Practice Note provides guidance and specifies the requirements for the installation requirements for gas heating appliances installed in a roof space.

The content below provides guidance on:

- Legal requirements for this type of installation.
- Location considerations must be given for this type of installation.
- Access for maintenance and servicing.
- Platform protection.
- Additional information.

Abbreviations & Definitions

The abbreviations and definitions set out below are for guidance only. They are not intended to vary those set out in the Building Act 1993, the Building Regulations 2018 or the National Construction Code.

- **Act** – Building Act 1993
- **NCC** – National Construction Code 2022
- **Regulations** – Building Regulations 2018
- **Regulations** – Plumbing Regulations 2018

Legal requirements for this type of installation

The installation requirements for all appliances are covered in Section 6 of AS/NZS 5601.1

When installing gas heating appliances in a roof space, Clause 6.3.11 - Appliance in a Roof Space, provides specific requirements.



Appliances shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of this Standard and the manufacturer's instructions.

Location considerations must be given for this type of installation

The roof section must be capable of supporting the additional load, and the weight of the installed appliance should not deform any part of the building structure.

The installation of the appliance must include lighting and access for servicing.

If the appliance cannot be safely accessed a permanent means of access is required to be provided.

Access for maintenance and servicing

The walkway to the appliance must be 600mm wide, with the service platform where required around the appliance to be at least 750mm wide. All platforms must be permanently fixed to the building and capable of supporting the weight of a person.

A permanent artificial light must be provided at the appliance with a switch located adjacent to the access opening.

Access clearances as stated in the manufacture's installation instructions must be provided for servicing and maintenance.

Ductwork must not restrict the required clearances for servicing or maintenance.

Platform protection

Where the appliance is to be installed on a combustible platform and the appliance burner is less than 300mm above the appliance base, then:

- The platform must be covered with fire resistant material to the perimeter of the appliance base and 300mm beyond the base in front of any louvre or fixed opening into the burner compartment and there must be an air gap of 25mm min between the appliance base and fire-resistant; or
- The platform must be covered with corrosion resistant 0.6mm minimum thick sheet metal to the perimeter of the appliance base and 300mm beyond the base in front of any louvre or fixed opening into the burner compartment and there must be an air gap of 100mm min. between the sheet metal and the appliance base.
- For further information, please refer to Additional Information.

Additional information

1. Flue clearance from combustible materials is critical. important. Gasfitters must ensure adequate flue clearances are maintained. Refer to AS/NZS 5601.1 Section 6 Clause 6.8.12. - Protection of combustible surfaces.
2. Locations of burner and fan openings will vary with different appliances.
3. Condensate drains on some high efficiency heating appliances will need to be installed as per manufacturer's instructions and drain to a suitable or approved location.
4. "Fire resistant material" is a defined term in AS/NZS 5601.1 and is required to prevent the transfer of heat (thermal conductivity) from the appliance to the platform. Further details to determine the rate of thermal conductivity are given in Appendix C of AS/NZS 5601.1 – Fire resistant materials and acceptable methods of protection of combustible surfaces.



- Some manufacturers may have an exemption to place the appliance on an unprotected surface due to the appliance design. Such exemptions would be identified by a data plate affixed to the appliance and in the manufacturer's instructions.

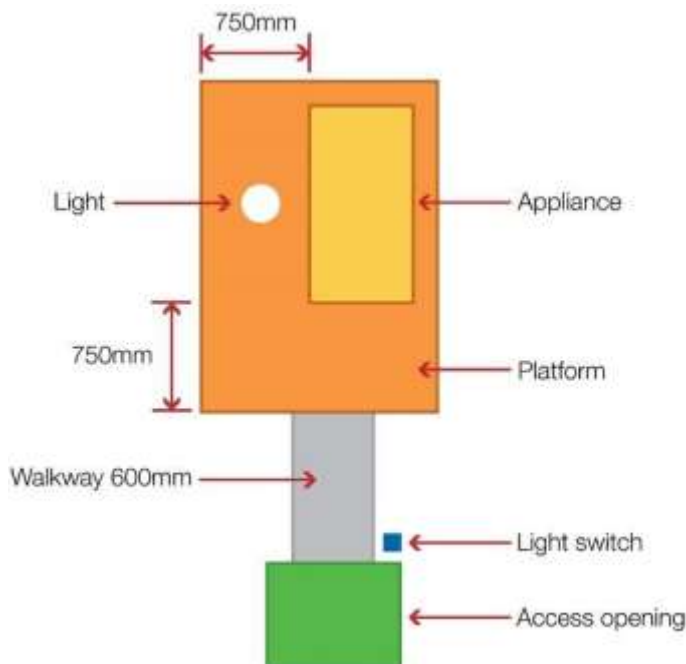


Figure 1 – Appliance location in a roof space

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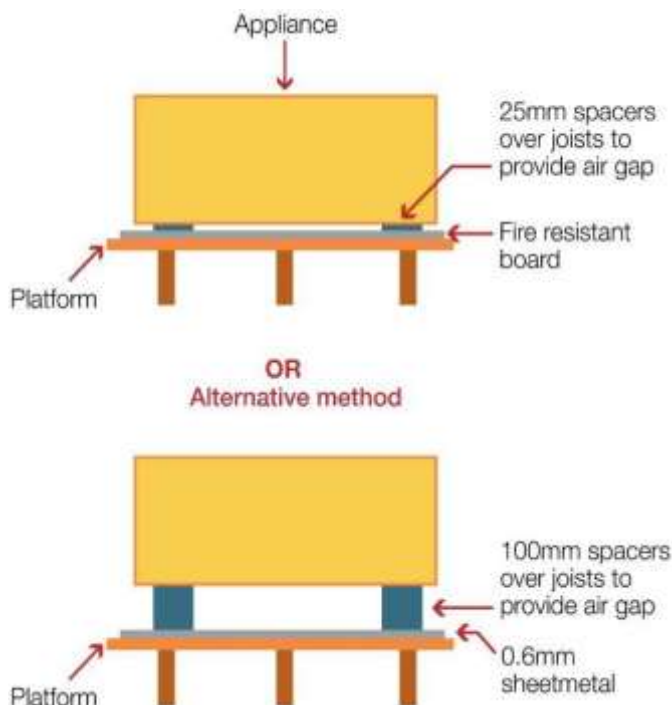


Figure 2 – Appliance platform requirements (side elevation)

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Related Documentation

- Building Act 1993
- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Code 2022
- AS/NZS 5601:1:2022 Gas Installations: Part 1

List of Amendments

- Inserted new figure

Document history

Sector Plumbing

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Superseded

- Version 2.0, published 28 June 2021, supersedes Practice Note 92.05: Natural Gas Type A installations in a roof space

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