

# Clearances from Gas, Propane and Electric Ranges

**The keys to the safe and effective use of gas and electric ranges in residential applications are good planning, careful installation and proper maintenance.**

Fires from cooking are a common occurrence. To reduce the risk of a fire spreading beyond cooking surfaces of your appliance, minimum clearances are required from combustible materials as prescribed in the Alberta Building Code. Improper installations may create a fire hazard that places your life and the lives of your family in jeopardy.

**WARNING:** *Some gas ranges may require increased clearances from the Alberta Building Code minimum. Please consult the appliance manufacturer's installation instructions to determine if increased clearances are required. Additionally a gas permit may also be required if changes to the gas piping system are made.*

**NOTE:** This brochure is intended to provide information relative to the minimum requirements for standard residential stoves. If you are installing a large or commercial type range in your home then you should check the manufacturer's clearances as they may be greater.

## Microwave Ovens

The Alberta Building Code 2006 does not regulate portable plug-in appliances such as over-the-range microwaves. The manufacturer's installation manuals for over-the range microwave ovens typically cover clearances and other specifications related to their installation, and they should be installed in accordance with those instructions.

## Combustible Material Clearances

Clearances are required to limit the probability that heat radiating from a range or from open fire will ignite nearby combustible materials which could lead to the spread of fire.

The minimum clearance required directly above the range is 750 mm (approx 30") to combustibles. This clearance can be reduced to 600 mm (approx 24") when the finish is protected as per Article 9.10.22.2. **Vertical Clearances above Ranges** of the Alberta Building Code.

Horizontal or vertical clearances on the sides of the range to unprotected combustibles must be a minimum of 450 mm (18") above the level of the heating element. Combustibles located within the required 450 mm (18") horizontal or vertical clearances must be protected as per Article 9.10.22.3.

**Protection around Ranges** of the Alberta Building Code.

## The Alberta Building Code states:

### Article 9.10.22.2. Vertical Clearances above Ranges

- 1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), framing, finishes and cabinetry installed directly above the location of the range shall be not less than 750 mm above the level of range burners or elements.
- 2) The vertical clearance described in Sentence (1) for framing, finishes and cabinets located directly above the location of the range may be reduced to 600 mm above the level of the elements or burners provided the framing, finishes and cabinets *are noncombustible, or protected by*

- i) asbestos millboard not less than 6 mm thick, that is covered with sheet metal not less than 0.33 mm thick, or
- ii) a metal hood with a 125 mm projection beyond the framing, finishes and cabinets.

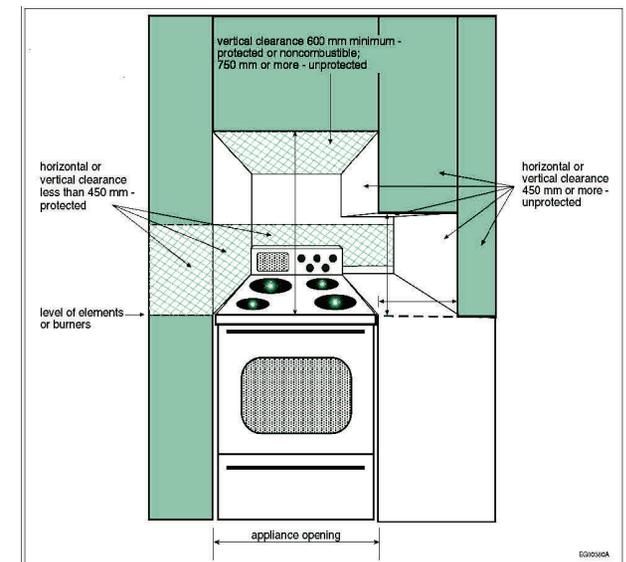
### Article 9.10.22.3. Protection around Ranges

- 1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3), combustible wall framing, finishes or cabinets within 450 mm of the area where the range is to be located shall be protected above the level of the heating elements by material providing fire resistance not less than that of a 9.5 mm thickness of gypsum board.
- 2) Counter-top splash boards or back plates that extend above the level of heating elements need not be protected as described in Sentence (1).
- 3) Except for cabinetry described in Article 9.10.22.2., cabinetry located not less than 450 mm above the level of the heating elements need not be protected as described in Sentence (1).

## Illustration

### Clearance from ranges to walls and cabinetry

Figure A-9.10.22.



## Installation of Ranges

*Natural gas & propane ranges shall be installed in accordance with gas code regulations made pursuant to the Safety Codes Act.*

*Electrical range installations shall conform to electric code regulations made pursuant to the Safety Codes Act.*

*Clearances for and protection around gas, propane and electric ranges shall be not less than those provided in the current edition of the Alberta Building Code.*

## Do you need a permit?

You must obtain appropriate permit (s) for your kitchen development as well as any gas, propane and electric range installations. Local bylaws and provincial regulations governing when you need a permit may vary with the specific circumstances surrounding your project.

Always check with the permit issuing authority in your area prior to commencing any work on buildings covered by the current edition of the Alberta Building Code.

## Benefits of getting a permit

- You will have access to the expertise of certified safety codes officers (inspectors) who will advise you regarding compliance with the Alberta Building Code.
- Your plans will be reviewed by a certified safety codes officer to identify potential problems. This will allow you to make changes in the plans stage rather than making costly corrections after construction.
- Inspection (s) will be carried out by certified safety codes officers who will provide you with an inspection report( s), and follow-up of outstanding deficiencies related to the Alberta Building Code.

*If you are not certain on where to obtain the required permit (s) for projects located in your area or you have further questions on requirements for kitchen development and range installations, please contact Alberta Municipal Affairs using the contact information provided on the back of this brochure to find out more.*

## Alberta's Safety System

Alberta Municipal Affairs works in partnership with the Safety Codes Council, municipalities, corporations, agencies, and other organizations, to deliver effective community-focused public safety programs and services to Albertans.

## Questions or more information:

### Alberta Municipal Affairs

Safety Services Branch  
16th Floor, Commerce Place  
10155 - 102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

Phone toll-free: 1 (866) 421 6929

Fax: (780) 427 8686

E-mail: [safety.services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safety.services@gov.ab.ca)

[www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca)

### Safety Codes Council

Suite 1000, 10665 - Jasper Ave NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S9

Toll-free within Alberta:

Phone: 1 (888) 413 0099

Fax: 1 (888) 424 5134

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

Please place your agency or municipality contact information in the space below.

These brochures may be updated periodically. They have no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various bylaws, codes and regulations currently in effect.

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# Safety Tips

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Alberta

