

FIRE PROTECTION FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC RANGES

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

9.10.22.2. Vertical Clearances above Cooktops

- (1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), framing, finishes and cabinetry installed directly above the location of the cooktop shall be not less than 750 mm (2 ft 6 in) above the level of the cooktop burners or elements.
- (2) The vertical clearance described in Sentence (1) for framing, finishes and cabinets located directly above the location of the cooktop is permitted to be reduced to 600 mm (23⁵/₈ in) above the level of the elements or burners provided the framing, finishes and cabinets
 - (a) are noncombustible, or
 - (b) are protected by
 - (i) asbestos millboard not less than 6 mm (1/4 in) thick, covered with sheet metal not less than 0.33 mm (0.013 in) thick, or
 - (ii) a metal hood with a 125 mm (4⁷/₈ in) projection beyond the framing, finishes and cabinets.

9.10.22.3. Protection Around Cooktops

- (1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) to (3), combustible wall framing, finishes, or cabinets within 450 mm (17 3/4") of the area where the cooktop is to be located shall be protected above the level of the heating elements or burners by material providing fire resistance not less than that of a 9.5 mm (3/8 in) thickness of gypsum board.
- (2) Counter-top splash boards or back plates which extend above the level of the heating elements or burners 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 (17 3/4") above the level of the heating elements or burners need not be protected as described in Sentence (1).

OBJECTIVE

Kitchen ranges are usually provided with electric fans installed directly over the range. In most homes a metal hood fan is installed with a vertical clearance of 610 mm (2 ft) measured from the top of the elements to the underside of the cabinets, as prescribed by the Building Code.

In customizing kitchen cabinetry, where the appearance is dictated by uniformity, the fan may be installed in a combustible hood that matches the kitchen cabinets.

Cooking oils and fats, when overheated, become flammable. The possibility of the flames spreading to the combustible hood is reduced when the distance from the elements is increased. Therefore, the Building Code requires a clearance of at least 750 mm (2 ft 6 in) between the range elements and any combustibles above. It is also required that the adjacent cabinets be kept at least 457 mm (1 ft 6 in) away from the range area. Please refer to the elevation, shown below, of a typical

