

Building Bulletin

519-741-2312

building@kitchener.ca

www.kitchener.ca/building

Clearances Around Cooktops

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This Building Bulletin is intended to notify the industry of a change in enforcement by the City of Kitchener Building Division regarding clearance requirements around gas, propane and electric cooktops and ovens to support Provincial consistency.

Under the Ontario Building Code (OBC), Division B, Subsection 9.10.22., combustible wall framing, finishes or cabinets located within 450 mm (17¾") of the cooktop must be protected.

Previously, the Kitchener Building Division measured this distance as an arc from the heating element when the appliance is in place during inspection (see Figure 1).

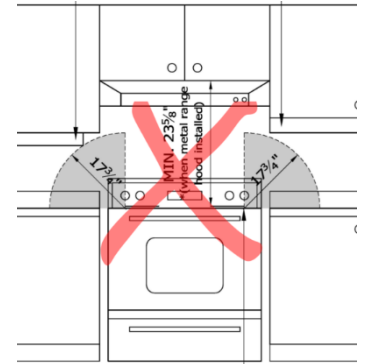


Figure 1

Effective for permits issued on or after July 1, 2025, this measurement approach will change to align with the diagram provided in the Appendix to the OBC (see Figure 2). The revised method requires measuring a minimum 450 mm both horizontally and vertically (rather than along an arc) and from the edge of the appliance opening (rather than from the heating element).

Combustible wall framing, finishes or cabinets, valances, or similar materials within this 450 mm zone would be required to be protected in accordance with Article 9.10.22.3.

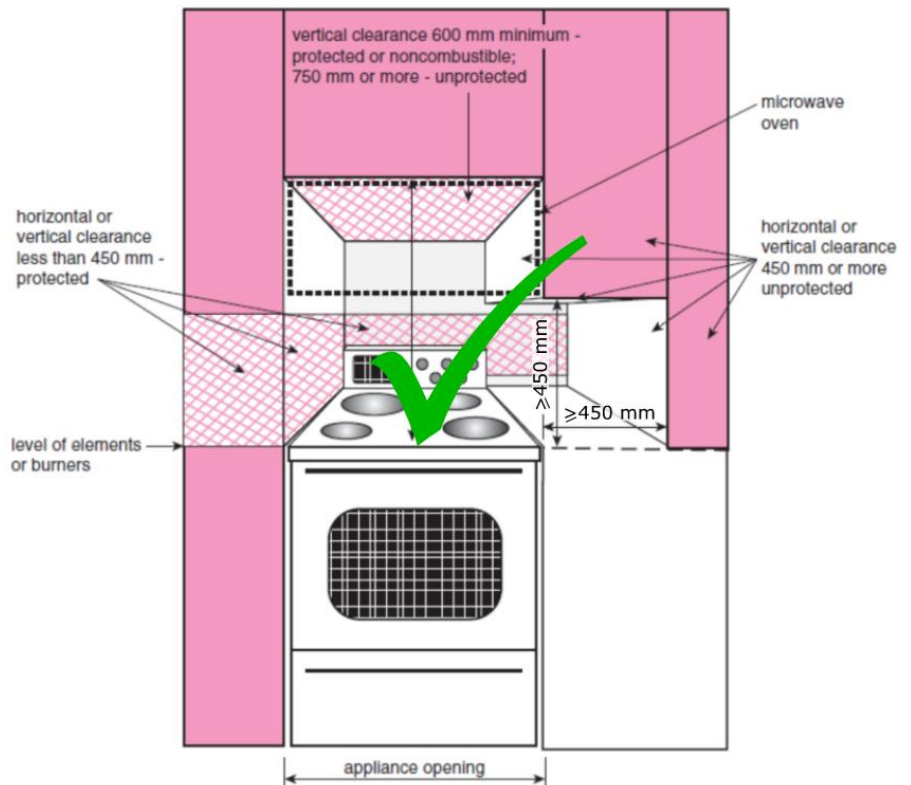


Figure 2

(Effective for permits issued on or after July 1, 2025)