

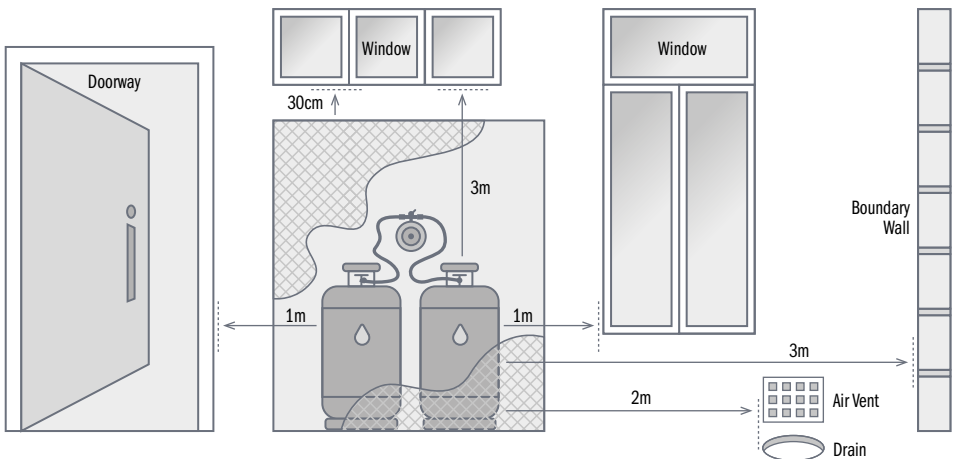
LEGALITIES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FOR YOUR KITCHEN'S SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

When you are embarking on a kitchen revamp you want to make sure that what you are asking the contractor to do is within the law. We often find kitchen designers are put under pressure to design a kitchen in a specific way even though it contravenes fire safety regulations, gas safety regulations, electrical regulations or the warranty of a product or material. It is imperative that you, as the client, heed the recommendations of the designer - the industry professional, and if you don't want to, don't be surprised if they ask you to sign a waiver.

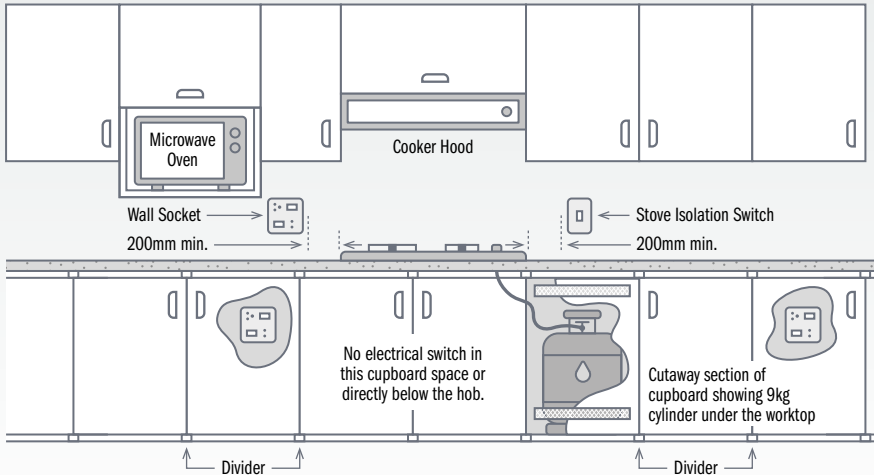


GAS IN THE KITCHEN

- Gas installations may only be done by registered installers with a valid license. They will give you a certificate to certify the installation. Should you not have this 'COC', it could lead to issues with your insurance at a later stage. A list of registered installers can be found at www.saqccgas.co.za.
- The veneer or laminate coatings of worktops (or adjacent kitchen units) to a gas appliance must be treated with 100 °C heat-resistant adhesive which will not dissolve or distort in order to comply with fire safety regulations.
- A gas hob may not be installed over a fridge, fridge freezer, freezer, dishwasher, washing machine or tumble dryer.
- An electric fryer must not be installed directly next to a gas hob, as the gas flames could ignite the fat in the fryer. It is essential to maintain a distance of at least 300 mm between these two appliances.
- Ensure manufacturers minimum distances from cupboards and backwalls are adhered to, or the gas flame could scorch your back or side walls or splashback.
- Regularly wash the grease filters in your extractor if you have a gas hob, to prevent the risk of fire.
- The placement of your gas cylinders has certain minimum requirements. Specific requirements are listed in SANS 10087-1: 2013 and can be seen in the image below:



- Ventilation to the area where the cylinders are stored is key.
- For storage inside the kitchen, regulatory requirements must be considered:
 - Rubber pipe may not pass through any partition; so if the pipework is going any distance or traveling through a partition or wall, it must be in ½" copper.
 - Adequate spacing between the gas bottle and any plug points must be observed.
 - If storing your gas bottle in a cupboard, the cupboard must be ventilated and only accommodate the bottle, and nothing else.
 - A service and shut off valve must be installed between the bottle and the appliance.



NOTE: The supply hose goes through the solid partition and there are ventilation slots at the top and bottom of the cupboard door. If the worktop/cupboard installation is placed against an outside wall of the kitchen, a ventilation slot should also be placed on the outside wall at the bottom level of the cupboard.

- Most gas appliances come with both LPG and Natural gas jets. Natural gas is only available in certain areas of South Africa (mainly Johannesburg). Your gas installer will be able to check and ensure the correct jets are installed.
- If installing an extractor above a gas hob, it must be at least 650mm above the hob in order to comply with fire safety regulations.
- The by-laws in various areas differ on how many bottles of gas and of which size can be stored in a house or on a property at any one time. They also specify how they must be stored. It is essential you get in touch with your local fire department and get clarity on how many bottles you may have, and how you should store them, in order to ensure you are not breaking any fire safety regulations.



ELECTRICS IN THE KITCHEN

- Plug points should always be placed in an accessible position so that in the event of an emergency, the appliance can be easily switched off. Ideally the plug should be in the adjacent cupboard, or fitted above the appliance.
- Your DB board should not be covered by a cupboard or hidden from view. It must be easily accessible and clearly visible, in case access to it is needed in the event of an emergency.

WATER IN THE KITCHEN

- It is crucial that you can access the water inlet valve to close it in case of emergency.
- When making connections to existing plumbing, make sure that the line is flushed using a bucket to prevent damage to the appliance.
- Ensure a rubber seal is always present to prevent leakage.
- Gas water heaters needs an approved plumber for the water connection, and an approved Gas installer for the gas installation.
- It is forbidden to install a dishwasher under a hob

EXTRACTION

- Recommended Heights for extractors above the hob in order to operate safely and effectively are:
 - Height above gas, 650mm min
 - Height above electric/induction 550mm min
 - Ceiling extractors 1500mm above hobs.
- Your extractors need to be on an isolator switch.
- If ducting your extractor to the outside, you may not duct more than 10m, or with more than two bends in the pipe otherwise the unit becomes ineffectual.

OTHER APPLIANCES

- If you are installing eye level cupboards directly above a hob you need to observe a recommended distance between the top of the hob and be bottom of the cupboards. Unless otherwise specified by the hob manufacturer, this distance is recommended to be 760mm.
- When doing a cut out for a hob, it is critical that the manufacturers recommended cut out size is followed as this gives space for the hob's natural expansion and contraction as it heats and cools, and will ensure excess heat is not transferred onto your surfacing material causing damage.
- A separate isolator needs to be installed for an electric hob if the hob is installed separately and away from the oven.
- Isolators must not be installed on the wall directly behind the hob for safety reasons but on either side, (municipal regulations may differ from area to area on this point)
- It is not advised that an oven be installed next to a refrigerator. The excess heat from the oven can adversely affect the fridge's thermostat and cause overheating.
- An integrated fridge or fridge/freezer must always be installed with a ventilation kit in the base plate / kick plate of the housing and there should be chimney style venting back out into the kitchen the whole way up the back of the unit's housing. Failure to have this venting correct, as per the manufacturer's instructions, will void the guarantee on the unit.
- All appliances sold in SA should be provided with a standard 3 pin, 15amp plug, and NOT the typical European type plug. If you get a European plug do not try and remove it yourself. Return the appliance to the store. Any tampering with the plug will cause your guarantee to be void.
- Washing machines are delivered with travel brackets installed to protect the drum. If the machine is used and these have not been removed, they will damage the unit and void your guarantee.
- Tumble dryers, even condenser dryers, need some form of ventilation. Failure to ventilate can cause moisture damage to your cabinets.

We all want our new kitchen to look its best and sometimes having a visible vent in the kickplate or an additional isolator switch or tumble dryer ducting seems to spoil the aesthetic. It is important to remember that heeding the advice of your designer and complying with legalities that will keep you and your home safe and your appliance warranties in place is more important in the long run.