



# CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLES

## 2016 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE SECTIONS 904.2, 304.0, TABLE 904.2, & 921.0

*The following is a list of the general requirements for clearances of gas appliances to combustible material based on the 2016 California Mechanical Code. This handout is intended to provide only general information, contact the Building and Safety Division for any questions or additional information.*

In general all gas fired appliances shall be accessible for inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction (CMC 304.1). Clearances shall be maintained to:

1. Clean heating surfaces.
2. Replace filters, blowers, motor, burners, controls, and vent connections.
3. Lubricate moving parts.
4. Adjust and clean burners, pilots, and the proper functioning of explosion vents, where provided. (NFPA 54:9.2.1)

Central heating boilers and furnaces shall be provided with clearances in accordance with the following:

1. Listed central heating furnaces and low-pressure boilers shall be installed with clearances in accordance with the terms of their listings and the manufacturer’s installation instructions. (NFPA 54-12: 10.3.2.2)
2. Unlisted central heating and low pressure boilers shall be installed with clearances from combustible material not less than those specified in Table 904.2. (NFPA 54-12: 10.3.2.2)

**TABLE 904.2**  
**CLEARANCES TO COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL FOR UNLISTED FURNACES, BOILERS, AND AIR CONDITIONERS\***  
 [NFPA 54: TABLE 10.2.3(a)]  
 MINIMUM CLEARANCE (Inches)

APPLIANCE	ABOVE AND SIDES OF FURNACE PLENUM	TOP OF BOILER	JACKET SIDES AND REAR	FRONT	DRAFT HOOD AND BAROMETRIC DRAFT REGULATOR	SINGLE-WALL VENT CONNECTOR
I Automatically fired, forced air or gravity system, equipped with temperature limit control that is not capable of being set to exceed 250°F	6	–	6	18	6	18
II Automatically fired heating boilers – steam boilers operating not exceeding 15 pounds-force per square inch (psi) and hot water boilers operating at 250°F or less	6	6	6	18	18	18
III Central heating boilers and furnaces, other than in I or II	18	18	18	18	18	18
IV Air-conditioning appliance	18	18	18	18	18	18

For SI units: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, °C = (°F-32)/1.8, 1 pound-force per square inch = 6.8947 kPa  
 \* See Section 903.3 for additional requirements for air-conditioning appliances and Section 904.1 for additional requirements for central heating boilers and furnaces.

The installation of household cooking appliances shall be installed in accordance with section 921.0.

**Vertical Clearance Above Cooking Top. (CMC 921.3.2):** Household cooking appliances shall have a vertical clearance above the cooking top of not less than 30 inches to combustible material or metal cabinets. A minimum clearance of 24 inches is permitted where one of the following is installed:

1. The underside of the combustible material or metal cabinet above the cooking top is protected with not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch insulation millboard covered with sheet metal not less than 0.0122 of an inch thick.
2. A metal venting hood of sheet metal not less than 0.0122 of an inch thick is installed above the cooking top with a clearance of not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch between the hood and the underside of the combustible material or metal cabinet, and the hood is as wide as the appliance and the centered over the appliance.
3. A listed cooking appliance or microwave oven installed over a listed cooking appliances with the terms of the upper appliance listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions. *Microwave ovens shall comply with Section 923.*

