

Fact Sheet: Solid Fuel Heater

What is a Solid Fuel Heater?

Solid fuel home heaters are also known as ‘slow combustion heaters/ cookers’, ‘pot belly stoves’, ‘wood fire heaters’ or ‘tile fires’. Currently they are more popular than open fireplaces because their higher combustion efficiency requires lower fuel consumption for the same heat output. However, because it is possible to restrict the quantity of combustion air and slow the combustion speed, their potential for serious emissions of air pollutants is far greater than for an open fireplace.

Do I need approval for a solid fuel heater?

Yes. Before you install a solid fuel home heater you will need Council approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 or for the installation to be approved under Section 68 in association with a development application for new dwellings.

If the heater installation is proposed for a new dwelling, you can submit the heater specifications together with the other related documents for the development application of the dwelling. The online application form can be found on Council’s website – www.wagga.nsw.gov.au or at the front counter at Council’s Customer Service desk located at the Council Civic Centre.

To gain approval from Council you will need to:

Complete the Section 68 Application form for ‘Approval to Install a Solid or Oil Fuelled Heater’. This application incurs a fee - see Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges for the current charge. Payment is to be made when the above application form is submitted.

When you apply with the development application for the dwelling, Council will issue the DA approval for the dwelling including the wood fire heater with relevant conditions.

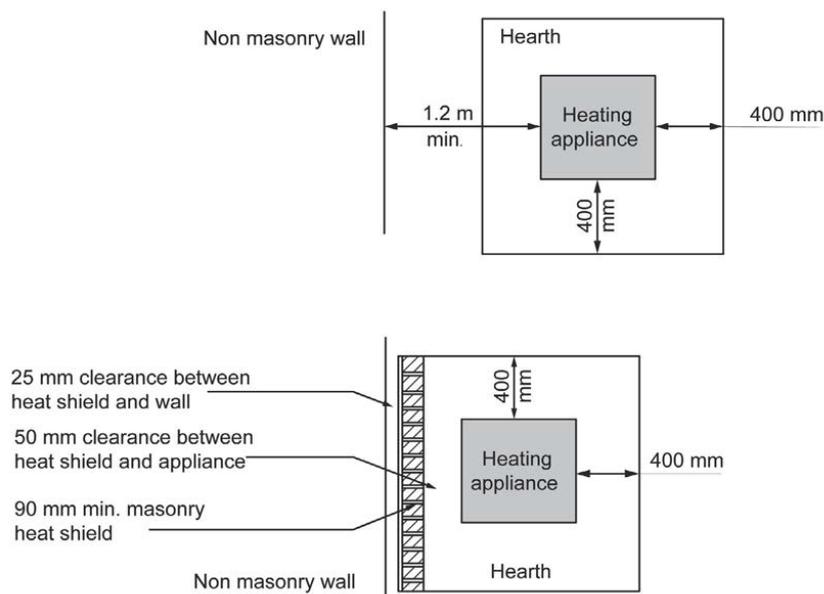
It will be assessed under the Building Code of Australia and AS/NZS 2918-2018 at the Construction Certificate application assessment stage.

A compliance certificate for installation from a licenced installer is required to be submitted before the final inspection.

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Heating Appliance Details to be submitted with the application:

1. Make and model for both appliance and flue kit - two copies.
2. Manufacturer's details for both appliance and flue kit. Details should be consisted with the certificate of conformity to AS/NZS2918-2018, to AS4012 for emissions and to AS4013 for efficiency - two copies.
3. Details of installer.
4. Position of heater (including diagram) (i.e. fireplace, against wall, freestanding).
5. Location of flue, chimney and hearth (on combustible floors).



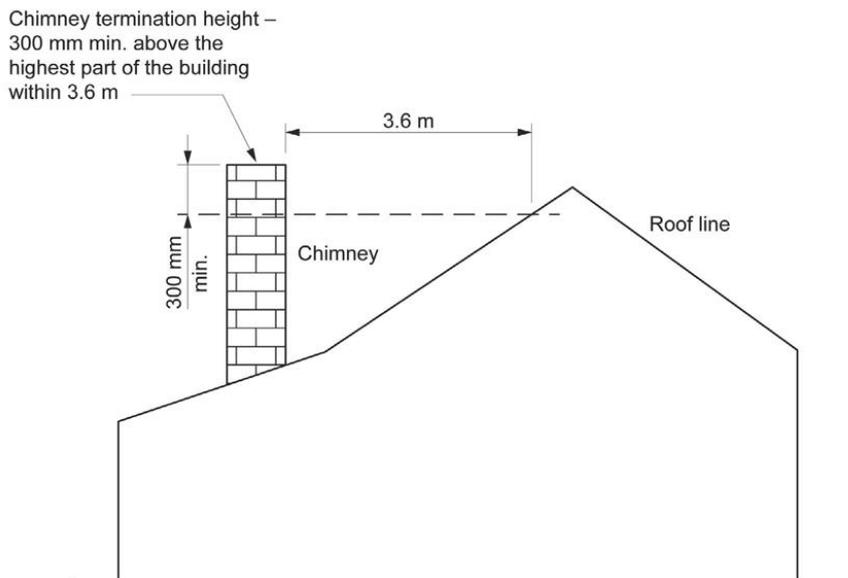
Example of detail to be provided

Correct installation

You must ensure your heater is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The chimney or flue must be at least 300mm above the highest part of the building within a horizontal distance of 3.6m of the chimney or flue. See Figure 3.7.3.2 of the National Construction Code 2013 as seen below.

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The above figure is the minimum standard under the Building Code of Australia which states that the chimney height must be 300mm above the highest part of the building when the chimney is within 3.6m of the ridge line.

New applications received by Council to install a solid fuel home heater may be required to comply with Australian / New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2918-2018 if they are in close proximity to neighbouring properties.

Maintenance

1. Clean the chimney and flue at the end of every heating season;
2. Inspect the flue and chimney regularly to check for a build-up of soot and creosote;
3. Remove all ash at the end of the heating season to prevent corrosion of the heater and during the heating season maintain a shallow layer of ash on the hearth.

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Tips to reduce smoke from your woodheater

1. Always use dry, well-seasoned wood in your woodheater
2. Get a hot fire going quickly and use plenty of paper and small kindling to start
3. Open air controls fully when lighting and loading, and keep air controls open enough to ensure your fire is burning brightly
4. Use larger pieces of wood once the fire is well-established
5. Check your chimney or flue at least once every evening to make sure your fire is not smoking excessively



Legal Considerations

Penalties may apply if the owner of the solid fuel home heater is using the heater in an environmentally unsatisfactory manner. Penalties may also apply if a solid fuel home heater is installed without approval from Council. Prevention Notices and fines can be issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 (POEO Act) and Orders may be issued under the Local Government Act, 1993 (LGA).