

Installing a domestic oil or solid fuel heating appliance

Fact Sheet

The installation of a domestic oil or solid fuel heating appliance is required under Section 68 (S.68) of the [Local Government Act 1993](#).

All domestic oil or solid fuel heating appliances must comply with the emission control of Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 4013.2014, as well as AS/NZS 2918.2018 and the National Construction Code.

Air quality and heating your home

Things to consider before making an application to install a solid fuel heater include:

1. Smoke produced from solid fuel heaters is a significant source of air pollution and impacts those in the neighbourhood that are immunocompromised.
2. Smoke from a solid fuel heater can be a nuisance to your neighbours.
3. Consider alternatives such as -
 - a. Insulating your home
 - b. Natural gas heaters
 - c. Reverse cycle air conditioning.

Wood heater regulations

- From 1 September **2019** all new solid fuel heaters sold in NSW **must have at least 60% efficiency and no more than 1.5 g/kg emissions.**

Second-hand domestic oil or solid fuel heating appliances will not be approved unless they have their compliance plate stating that it meets the emission control AS/NZS 4013.2014. With your application you must also include full manufacturers installation specifications from the year it was made.

Choose a solid fuel heater with a low emission level and high efficiency rating

The lower the emission level, the less carbon your heater emits into the atmosphere and the less impact it has on the environment. Additionally, the higher the efficiency, the less wood is needed to heat your home.

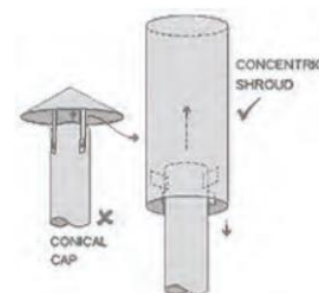
Do I need Council approval to install my heater?

Yes – Under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* you are required to gain Council approval prior to the installation of your heater. Once installed you are then required to return Notice of Completion form and await a final letter prior to using the heater.

Do I need a rain excluder?

Your chimney should have some form of rain excluder, also known as a cowl. A cowl can also increase the height of your chimney without extending the flue.

A 'Conical Cap' or 'Rotating Vane' should be avoided as they tend to prevent the natural upward flow of hot exhaust gases, as they initially direct the gases horizontally or downwards.



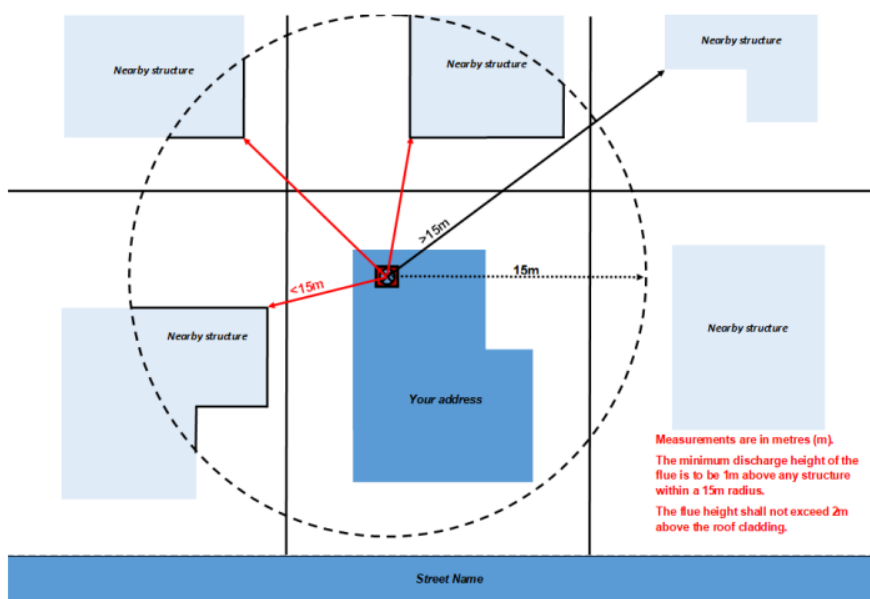
Chimney flue height

The chimney flue height must be at least 1 metre above any structure within 15 metres so you do not cause a smoke nuisance to the neighbours. The maximum height of the chimney flue is 2 metres above the ridge of the roof in which it is installed.

How do I prepare my site plan?

You can use existing plans or create your own plan. The diagram of the building is required to show position of the proposed appliance, including distances from combustible materials, and location and height of the flue. Any structures within 15 metres of the flue outlet are to be clearly shown.

A aerial image or plan view drawing of the building showing position of the proposed appliance, identifying any structures within 15 metres of the flue outlet.



Assessment criteria

The assessment of the application considers the potential for adequate smoke dispersal and intends to minimise the risk of smoke nuisance. This is guided by the [Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#), the [Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan 2014](#), and the [Shoalhaven Local Approvals Policy 2022](#).

The following measurements may apply:

- A minimum height of 1000mm (1 metre) above the height of any structure or topographical feature within a 15000 (15 metres) horizontal radius of the chimney shall be provided.
- The flue pipe shall extend more than 4600mm (4.6 metres) above the top of the floor protector.
- A minimum height of 600 mm (0.6 metres) shall be provided if the flue is within 3000 (3 metres) distance from the highest point of the roof.
- A minimum height of 1000 mm (1 metre) shall be provided if the flue is further than 3000 mm (3 metres) from the highest point of the roof.
- The flue height shall not exceed 2000 mm (2 metres) above the ridge of the roof in which it is to be installed.

All heating appliances must comply with the *Australia/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 4012:2014, AS/NZS 4013:2014, 2918:2018*, and the National Construction Code.

Application summary

Create or Login to your NSW Planning Portal account. For instructions on creating an account visit [Register for a Planning Portal Account](#).

Instructions to lodge your application can be found on the [Shoalhaven City Council website](#). If you experience difficulties lodging the application, you may contact council for further assistance.

Call 1300 293 111 or email council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Pre-lodgement requirements – What you will need

For the application to be processed certain fields within the online application are required during the pre-lodgement stage 5, Requirements and Uploads.

These fields include:

- **Description of works**
Provide description of proposed works.
- **Site plans**
A diagram of the building including the position of the proposed appliance, distances from combustible materials, and the location and height of the flue. Any structures within 15 metres of the chimney flue are to be clearly shown.
- **Specifications**
A copy of the full manufacturer's details of the appliance and flue kit, including the Certificate of Compliance.
- **Owners Consent**
This form is available for download via the [Shoalhaven City Council website](#) alongside the application instructions.

Instruction summary

1. Choose the new heater you would like to install. It is advisable not to purchase the heater before you have obtained the approval to install.
2. Follow the [instructions](#) to lodge your application via the NSW Planning Portal.
3. Once processed, the relevant council [Fees & Charges](#) will be invoiced, and the application will be submitted for assessment.
4. Once your application has been assessed, you will receive the determination within the NSW Planning Portal. If the application is approved, you may proceed with the installation and complete a Notification of Completion form. It is recommended to have a professional installer, a licenced plumber, or a licenced builder install your heater.
5. **You must return the completed Notification of Completion form and await the final letter prior to using the heater.**

Contact Us

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