
Outdoor gas appliances in alfresco areas

Guideline

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Background

Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) is the gas safety regulator for Tasmania. In this role CBOS investigates gas incidents and non-compliance with gas safety legislation including:

- Non-compliant and unsafe gas fitting work.
- Failure to rectify defective gas fitting work.
- Failure to provide notification of notifiable gas fitting work.
- Fires and explosions where gas may have been a contributing factor.
- Gas appliance incidents and compliance to required standards.
- Gas supply infrastructure integrity and safe management.
- Prohibited impacts on gas infrastructure.

This gas information sheet is essential for builders, manufacturers and installers of blinds, and anyone renovating an alfresco area or using outdoor gas appliances such as barbeques and patio heaters.

The installation of outdoor blinds

The installation of blinds in the outdoor area where gas appliances are installed may hinder the ventilation required to operate the outdoor gas appliances safely and consequently create a dangerous situation.

It is dangerous to use outdoor gas appliances in an enclosed area due to risks such as carbon monoxide poisoning in poorly ventilated areas. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer – it is an odourless, colourless gas, and it can be fatal or cause serious long-term health conditions.

Consideration when installing shades or blinds in an alfresco area

When installing shade or blinds in an alfresco area, it is important to ensure that the safety of outdoor gas appliances is not compromised.

Gas appliances

Gas appliances need adequate ventilation to ensure sufficient air for combustion for gas to burn safely, and to dilute the combustion products to safe levels. Gas appliances are specifically designed, manufactured, and tested to meet the Australian Standards for indoor or outdoor installation.

Gas appliances are required to have a permanent marking that specifies the installation location. The markings are typically “SUITABLE ONLY FOR INDOOR INSTALLATION” or “SUITABLE ONLY FOR OUTDOOR INSTALLATION”. If you cannot identify such a marking on the gas appliance, contact the appliance’s manufacturer.

Gas appliances must be installed and used as per the manufacturer’s instructions.

What is an outdoor area?

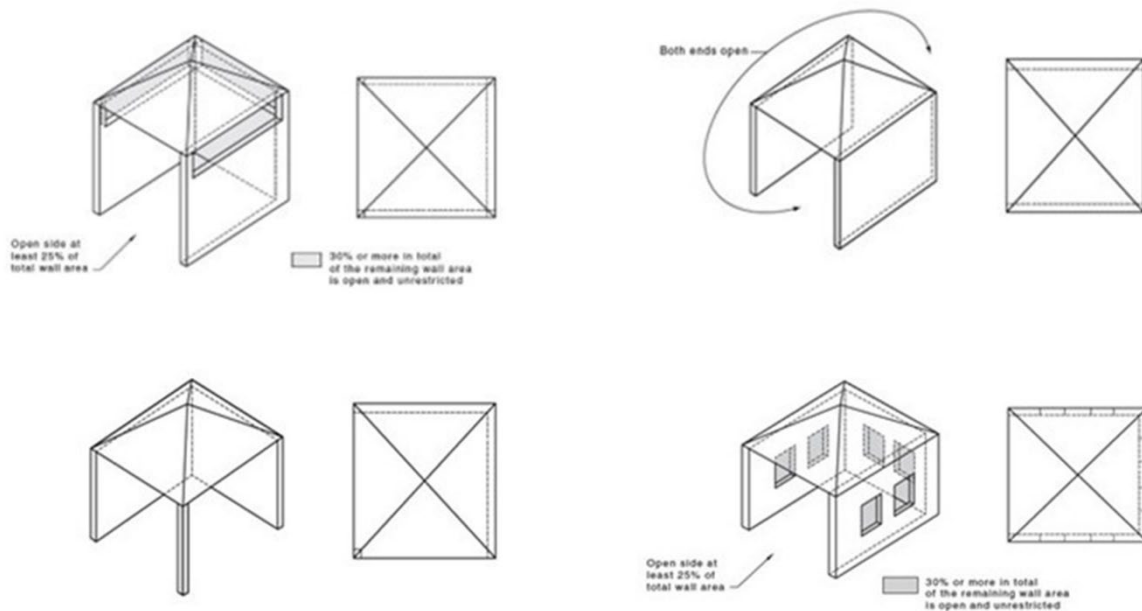
An outdoor area is an open-air space unobstructed by buildings or other structures. The installation of shades or blinds may restrict the airflow. Diagrammatical examples of areas considered to be “outdoor areas” are provided below.

The following figures are diagrammatical representations of areas that can be considered “outdoor” and accordingly suitable for any appliance that has the marking “SUITABLE ONLY FOR OUTDOOR INSTALLATION”. The areas used in these figures are examples; the same principles apply to any other shaped area. It is important to note that any opening fitted with a blind or a shade material, even one that is retractable and can be opened, is considered closed for gas safety and compliance purposes.

If you are unsure whether your outdoor area is suitable, please contact your gas supplier.

A balcony or veranda is considered an acceptable area if 20 per cent of the wall area (sides, back and front) remains permanently open and unrestricted.

Examples of outdoor areas:



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