

Siting a Gas Kiln

So, we're going to install a gas kiln to fire ceramics.



The size of the pieces you want to make, will determine the firing times. These will usually be 6 – 15 hours up to temperatures of around 1200°C – 1300° and depending on the design will be something similar to cool.

During this time the kiln will give off quite a lot of heat, and so ventilation and space around the kiln are key to safety.

In order for the kiln to work properly, the burners will need fuel, gas and air (oxygen) to burn and a route out for the exhaust.

The kiln should be sited on a solid non-combustible floor where possible, if this isn't possible, lay paving slabs and mount the kiln on top.

The kiln can weigh anything from 400kg upward, so wise to check floor loading capacity if available.

The kiln should have 12" – 18" (30cm – 45cm) to either side and back from a stud wall, but can be closer to a block, brick or stone wall, depending on the kiln's controls and access required to said controls. More space is required above the kiln for collection canopy and heat dispersal.

Adequate ventilation is essential, both for the safe operation of the burners and to disperse the heat generated throughout the firing and cooling. From a gas engineer's point of view, similar calculations to a boiler apply for air and flue allowance.

Ideally the exhaust flue needs to be vertical. If bends are required, for example a zig zag through a wall, new calculations will be required for the flue pipe size.

The fuel line needs to be of adequate size and capacity to feed the kiln throughout the firing with the fuel it requires, which is minimal to begin with and heavier as the kiln climbs to higher temperatures.

That covers the basics of the kiln, what about you the user? You need space to load the work you've made, space to store kiln furniture, as well as access to and from the kiln controls.

It can be a handy space to dry work so shelving, preferably metal is a good idea too in the kiln area.

We can format a kiln for your needs, at no extra cost. One of our specialties is getting large kilns through small doors. We provide a full delivery and fitting service, and are happy to liaise and then quote, providing delivery dates we will arrive and complete on.

All our works are guaranteed.