

# Confined Spaces on the Farm Picture This



## Confined spaces in craft breweries

**A confined space** is an enclosed or partially enclosed area that is big enough for a worker to enter even partially. It's not designed for human occupancy and has a limited or restricted entrance or exit.

**Examples include:**

- Grain bins and silos
- Process tanks for rice, malted barley, and brewing chemicals
- Mash tuns, boiler tuns, bottles, and whirlpools
- Grain dust collectors

**Confined space hazards:**

- Toxic gases:** Such as carbon dioxide in fermentation tanks.
- Flips:** Slipping inside tanks.
- Collapse of solids:** Equipment or grain into.
- Lack of oxygen:** Oxygen displacement when playing with nitrogen.
- Temperature extremes:** Inward or with heating systems.
- Bleeding:** Falling into liquid-filled tanks.

Two B.C. workers died in a fermentation tank. One worker lost consciousness and fell into the tank after opening it and inhaling carbon dioxide gas. A fellow worker died trying to rescue him.

**You are entering a confined space when your breathing zone is inside it. This includes putting your head inside the space.**

**Do:**

- Use a gas monitor when opening any confined space that may contain a toxic gas.
- Use a tripod or harness on an extension pole to test inside a confined space.
- Only enter a confined space if you have:
  - Permission from your supervisor
  - The proper training and equipment

**Don't:**

- Don't enter spaces that have warning signs or labels.
- Don't put your head near an opening into a confined space that might contain a toxic gas.
- Don't try to rescue others without proper training and equipment.

**All confined space hazard assessments and written entry procedures must be prepared by a qualified person with training and experience to recognize, evaluate, and control confined space hazards.**

Source: <https://www.worksafebc.com>