



POST OF 20/09/2026

Working in confined spaces: Before we go in

Most refractory jobs have exactly one way in: a manhole just large enough for a person. Hoses, tools, material and, in an emergency, the way out all pass through the same opening.

Working in a confined space therefore changes the entire workflow. Access, supervision, light and air are settled before the first step inside.

Pre-entry checklist

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| ☐ Isolation | plant isolated and locked out against restart, supply lines shut off |
| ☐ Cool-down | furnace or boiler sufficiently cooled, interior temperature measured |
| ☐ Gas testing | atmosphere tested before entry, result recorded |
| ☐ Permit | written approval from the operator is in place: permit first, then entry |
| ☐ Attendant | someone is always stationed at the manhole, visual or voice contact agreed |
| ☐ Escape route | kept clear, even when hoses and material pass through the same opening |
| ☐ Light and air | we bring lighting and ventilation and set them up before work starts |



View through the manhole: one opening for people, material and the way out



Entry from above: cable and hose through the same opening

Common mistakes

- Going in "because it will only take a minute", without gas testing and without an attendant at the manhole.
- Blocking the opening with hoses and material until the way out is no longer clear.
- Working in poor light: anyone who cannot see the joint they are pointing works sloppily and unsafely.

PRACTICAL NOTE

Clarify isolation, gas testing and the entry permit with us when scheduling. Then work starts on time on day one, and nobody waits at the manhole for a signature.

Questions about your furnace?

We assess lining, zones and condition — with a reply within 24 hours on working days.

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