# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedconfined space HVAC

Identifying whether there is a confined space in the workplace can sometimes be tricky. This can especially be true in HVAC due to working in a different home or building each day. Each comes with a new area to assess and work in. Confined spaces for this industry vary widely including attics, crawl spaces, small closets etc.

Is it a confined space?

*An area is a confined space if the answer is yes to these three questions:*

* Is it large enough for a person to enter?
* Is the entry/exit restricted?
* Is the area designed for occupancy?

Is a permit required?

*A permit-required confined space exists if one of these conditions are present:*

Yes, to one = permit required

* Is the atmosphere hazardous?
* Engulfing hazard present?
* Does it slope or have walls?
* Other hazards present?

Simplifying the process of determining if a confined space exists will ensure employees are properly protected in areas that have a potential threat to life and health. There are no room for shortcuts. The result could have deadly consequences.

*What to do when encountering a confined space:*

* Employees should not enter a confined space unless they have been through confined space training within the last 3 years
* Determine if the space is permit required
* Follow the company’s confined space written program
* Remove any hazards that can be removed before entering
* Ensure there is adequate safety equipment before entering such as ventilation equipment, air monitors and an emergency plan in place
* An attendant should be present just outside of the area anytime someone is working inside

If there is question of whether an area is considered a confined space, a manager should be contacted. ****