



KENTUCKY
AGC Self Insurers' Fund

Working Safely in Attics & Crawl Spaces

Working in attics and crawl spaces presents unique challenges and safety risks for construction professionals. Confined spaces, limited visibility, environmental hazards, and structural concerns demand careful planning and adherence to safety protocols. This guide provides essential tips and best practices to help ensure a safe working environment in these often-overlooked areas of the jobsite.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- **Conduct a Hazard Assessment:** Identify electrical, structural, pest, and environmental risks before entry.
- **Communicate & Coordinate:** Inform your team or supervisor of your location and expected duration inside the space.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- **Respirator or Dust Mask:** Protects against insulation fibers, mold, and dust.
- **Hard Hat:** Prevents head injuries in confined or low-clearance areas.
- **Coveralls & Gloves:** Protect against sharp objects, chemicals, and contaminants.
- **Knee Pads/Cushions:** Reduce strain when crawling.
- **Safety Glasses:** Prevent eye injuries from debris or hanging objects.

WORKING IN ATTICS

- **Watch Your Step:** Only step on joists or secured platforms-never walk on insulation or unsupported drywall.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow to reduce heat stress and fume exposure.
- **Heat Awareness:** Temperatures can exceed 120°F-hydrate frequently and take breaks.
- **Lighting:** Use portable, battery-powered lighting to avoid tripping or stepping hazards.

WORKING IN CRAWL SPACES

- **Check for Water/Mold:** Inspect for standing water or mold growth-use appropriate PPE and decontamination protocols.
- **Test Air Quality:** Use a gas monitor to detect oxygen deficiency, carbon monoxide, or other toxic gases.
- **Watch for Wildlife:** Be cautious of rodents, snakes, and insects-carry a flashlight and make noise to avoid surprises.
- **Entry/Exit:** Keep entrances clear and ensure quick access in emergencies.

ELECTRICAL & TOOL SAFETY

- **Lockout/Tagout:** De-energize circuits before starting work near electrical components.
- **Cord Management:** Prevent trip hazards and protect against moisture damage.
- **Tool Safety:** Use battery-operated tools where possible to reduce electrocution risks in tight areas.

Remember: Tight spaces present hidden hazards-stay alert, work smart, and always prioritize safety. For more detailed procedures, refer to OSHA's Confined Space Standards (29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA).