

So you have to buy a portable gas monitor and want help in finding the right one for you.

- We want to help.
- The most common application is confined space entry.
- So this is the application we address here.

To clarify, a confined space monitor is one that, at a minimum, detects Oxygen, Combustibles (LEL), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) simultaneously.

- Otherwise known as a 4-Gas Monitor

Essentially, there are 2 types of monitors that can be used for confined space entry.

- **Diffusion Gas Monitors** (ones without internal pumps)
- **Internal Pump Gas Monitors** (ones with internal pumps built in)

Let's review some of the basic similarities and differences between these 2 types of instruments.

SIMILARITIES:

- Calibration – easy to calibrate
- Functionality – easy to use
- Power – come in alkaline and rechargeable battery options (depending on model)
- Reliability – electronics and sensor technology about the same
- Standard Features – belt clips standard on just about all models
- Warranty – most are 2 year
- Options – numerous options available such as calibration kits, carry cases, etc.

DIFFERENCES:

- Diffusion models are less expensive.
- Diffusion models require less maintenance.
- Diffusion models must be lowered down via a rope to remote sample a space.
 - Tests each layer of air as instrument is raised and lowered – a good thing.
- With Internal Pump models only the probe/tubing is lowered not the instrument.
 - Tests layer of air only where probe is held stationary for a number of seconds.
 - Pumps can malfunction becoming less reliable.

Our most popular instruments:

- [GasAlert Quattro](#) – Diffusion 4-Gas Monitor
- [GasAlert Max XT II](#) – Internal Pump 4-Gas Monitor

Notes:

- Some applications may require more exotic gases such as chlorine, fluorine or VOC's.
- We have monitors to help in these applications as well.
- If you don't see a monitor you are looking for, give us a call.
- We are here to help!
- **800.446.8274 – Call with any questions!**