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Ladder Materials in Confined Spaces

Most ladder systems in tanks and immersed structures today are constructed from unsuitable materials, and their design does not meet confined space requirements.

Galvanised mild steel and aluminium will both corrode when immersed in water - any corrosion occurring within a storage tank will affect the water quality by direct contamination and by reduced oxygen levels.

Stainless steel is more resistant to corrosion, but it can cause adjacent tank materials to deteriorate unless effective insulation procedures are carried out between any competing materials.
Safety is also compromised, as most stainless steel ladders have smooth rungs that are difficult to grip onto when wet.

The Nextep FRP ladder systems have a 50-year life projection when immersed - FRP is lightweight, easy to install and remains neutral to corrosion. The rung design is ergonomic, non-slip, and the yellow coloring is safe to use in low light conditions.

A balance between water quality, safety and confined space compliance is the only reality in today's workplace.