



Air Pollutants

Pollutant	Description	Examples of Sources	Health & Environmental Effects	Other Information
Particle Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very small particles of soot, dirt, or droplets of liquids that make the air look hazy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction mining, farming burning gasoline, coal, wood cars and trucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> decreases visibility eye, nose, throat, lung irritation increases deaths and hospitalization due to lung and heart problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes haze problems in national parks can be carried over long distances by wind
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> colorless, odorless gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inefficient burning of fuel broken furnaces cars and trucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bad headache; tired because oxygen cannot get into the blood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> can be both an indoor and outdoor pollutant
Radon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> radioactive gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> soil basements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> second leading cause of lung cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highest amounts are in lowest levels of the home
Air Toxics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dangerous air pollutants mercury volatile organic compounds (VOCs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chemical plants, power plants, oil refineries dry cleaners hazardous waste sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cancer diseases VOCs help form ozone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mercury gets into fish and then humans MI schools are getting rid of mercury
Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gas that travels on the wind colorless gas with an odor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> smokestacks from coal-burning power plants (that make electricity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes it hard to breathe becomes acid rain—hurts fish, animals and trees eats away statues and buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> can ride wind for hundreds of miles scrubbers try to catch it
Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gaseous compounds made of nitrogen and oxygen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enters air when cars, planes, trucks, and power plants burn fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes lungs hurt causes brown color in smog helps form ground-level ozone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contributes to acid rain and bad ozone
Ozone (O₃) (Ground-Level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> smog near the ground formed from other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight, NO_x, and VOCs 	Other air pollutants that contribute come from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vehicle exhaust power plants gasoline and solvents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyes burn headache damages lungs makes asthma worse reduces growth of crops and forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> peak levels typically occur during hot, dry, stagnant summertime conditions



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Chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ozone depleters made of chlorine, fluorine, and carbon also a greenhouse gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coolants refrigerators air conditioners in homes and cars 	If good ozone is destroyed, increased UV light will cause— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plants to die an increase skin cancer and eye disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> destroys good ozone contributes to global climate change also a greenhouse gas
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> greenhouse gas colorless, odorless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> burning power plants cars and trucks cutting down trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> this and other gases contribute to increases in Earth's temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> levels are steadily increasing not a “bad” gas in the right amount
Lead (Pb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> metallic element compounds of this were used in gasoline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very old vehicles that burn leaded gasoline metal refineries old paint and plumbing pipes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brain and kidney damage learning problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> took the lead out of gasoline and paint levels now very low