



Monthly Topic: Nitrogen Dioxide

- **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)** – Is one of a group of highly reactive gases known as “oxides of nitrogen” or “nitrogen oxides”. This group also contains nitrous acid and nitric acid.
- **Clean Air Act** – Requires the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to set the national air quality for “criteria pollutants.” Nitrogen Dioxide is one of six critical pollutants that is being monitored on a consistent basis.
- **Sources** – Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) forms when coal, oil, gas, or diesel (fossil fuels) are burned in extremely high temperatures. Emissions from cars, trucks, buses, and power plants are a large of percentage of the sources of NO₂.
- **What is it** – NO₂ has a suffocating, strong odor that can be in a liquid or gaseous state. As a liquid, the color of NO₂ ranges from dark brown to yellow. As a gas, it will appear reddish brown.



- **Health Effects** – NO₂ is a harmful gas that has many adverse effects to the lungs including increased swelling or inflammation of the airways which leads to chest tightness and pain. Lung function may worsen, which could result in increased risk of respiratory infections like the flu. Coughing, wheezing, or Dyspnea (shortness of breath) will become progressively worse, and asthma attacks occur more often which can lead to collapsing or death from respiratory failure.

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Applications

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- ✓ Chemical Plants

- ✓ Power Plants
- ✓ Toll Booths
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