



Nitrogen Dioxide

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Nitrogen Dioxide?

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is one of a group of highly reactive gases. These gases can irritate the nose, throat, and lungs, help make acid rain, and help create a haze which reduces how well you can see distances clearly.

How is nitrogen dioxide created?

Nitrogen dioxide is primarily formed when things burn. High temperatures during burning cause nitrogen oxide (NO) and other nitrogen oxides (NO_x) to react in the air to form nitrogen dioxide.

How much nitrogen dioxide is in the air in Florida?

The amount of NO₂ in the air in Florida meets the standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. You can learn more about the particle levels online at www.FloridaDEP.gov/air.

What are the sources of nitrogen dioxide?

Since nitrogen dioxide is formed mostly from burning fuel, the primary source is vehicle exhaust like cars, trucks, ships, trains, construction equipment, called mobile sources. Power plants, industrial facilities, and fires are also large sources of nitrogen dioxide. For the last three decades, emissions of nitrogen oxides have been dropping.

