



# Ozone

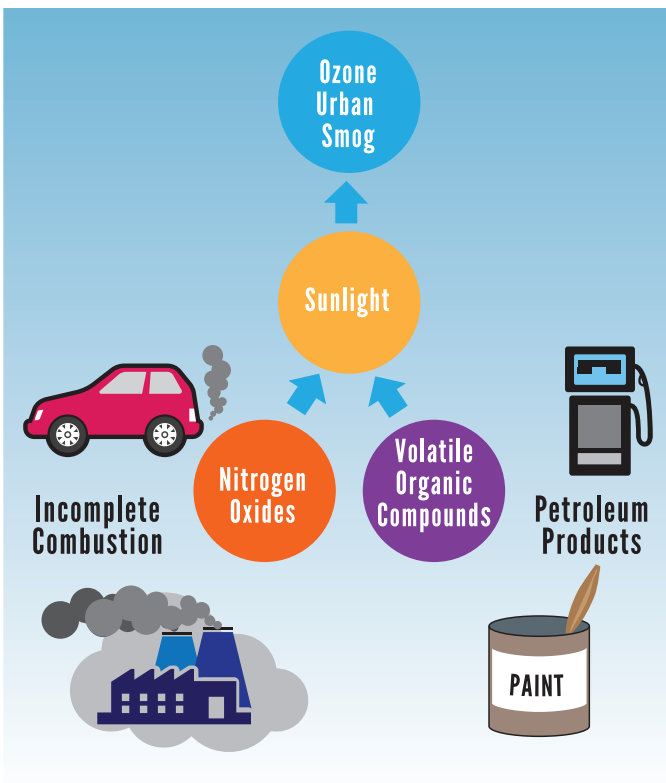
## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is ozone?

Ozone is a very reactive gas made of three atoms of oxygen and is the main component of urban smog. Unlike the oxygen we breathe, ozone can be harmful at high levels. However, it is also found high in the atmosphere where it forms an important protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful rays.

### How is ozone created?

Near the earth's surface, ground-level ozone is not directly emitted by any source but is formed when precursor pollutants combine in sunlight. The precursor gases are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides. VOCs come from things like paint and gasoline. Nitrogen oxide is formed during burning gas in cars and trucks or fuels used in things like power plants.



High up in the atmosphere, ozone exists like the shell of an egg, surrounding and protecting the earth from the strong ultraviolet rays from the sun. So, ozone is beneficial up high and can be problematic nearby.



### How much ozone is in the air in Florida?

Ozone levels in Florida meet federal air quality standards, and in most areas of the state, the air is cleaner than federally required. You can learn more about ozone levels online at <https://FloridaDEP.gov/air/air-monitoring/content/floridas-air-quality>.

