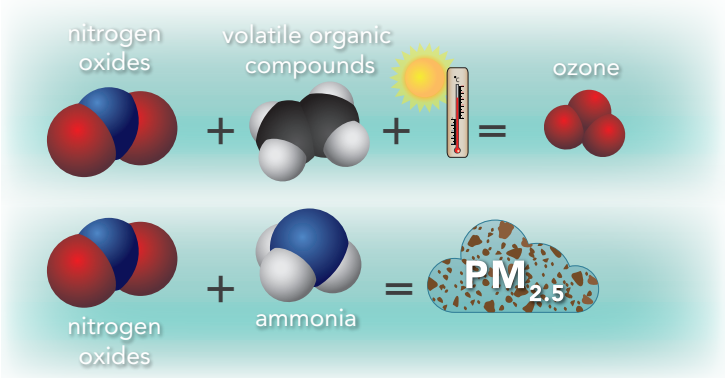
YOUR QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO NITROGEN OXIDES

WHAT ARE NITROGEN OXIDES?

Nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) are known collectively as nitrogen oxides (NOx). On hot and sunny days, nitrogen oxides can react with other pollutants to form ground-level ozone. Nitrogen oxides can also react with other pollutants to form fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Nitrogen dioxide is a highly-reactive, reddish-brown gas with a pungent and irritating odour and is partially responsible for the "brown haze" sometimes seen in the air. After its has been emitted, nitric oxide converts rapidly in the air to nitrogen dioxide.



THIS STUFF IS 'EXHAUSTING'!

Nitrogen oxides are most commonly emitted from the exhaust pipes of fossil fuel-burning engines and buildings.

NITROGEN DIOXIDE AND...

YOUR HEALTH

Nitrogen dioxide can damage your health by:

- Aggravating existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis
- Reducing immunity to lung infections
- Contributing to the formation of smog and particulate matter, which can also impact health

Check out Health Canada's Website to learn more

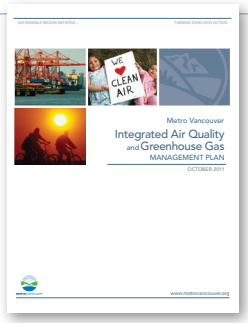
THE ENVIRONMENT

Nitrogen dioxide can affect our environment and our economy by:

- Increasing the acidification of soil and surface water
- Contributing to smog, which can damage ecosystems and reduce crop yields
- Contributing to the formation of particulate matter, which can reduce visual air quality and impact tourism

WHAT IS METRO VANCOUVER DOING ABOUT NITROGEN OXIDES?

Metro Vancouver is taking action by implementing our new non-road diesel regulation and updating our boiler and heater regulation. Check out our *Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan* to learn about other actions that will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions in our region.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

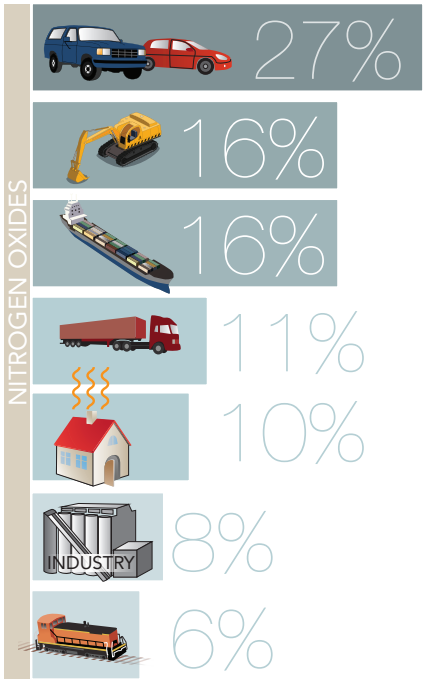
Visit Metro Vancouver's air quality and climate change webpages at www.metrovancouver.org/air for tips!

For more air quality information visit:

Caring for the Air | BC Air Quality | Northwest Clean Air Agency | US Environmental Protection Agency

WHERE DO NITROGEN OXIDES COME FROM?

The biggest emitters of nitrogen oxides in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District are:



Click here for more information about emissions in our region.

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION