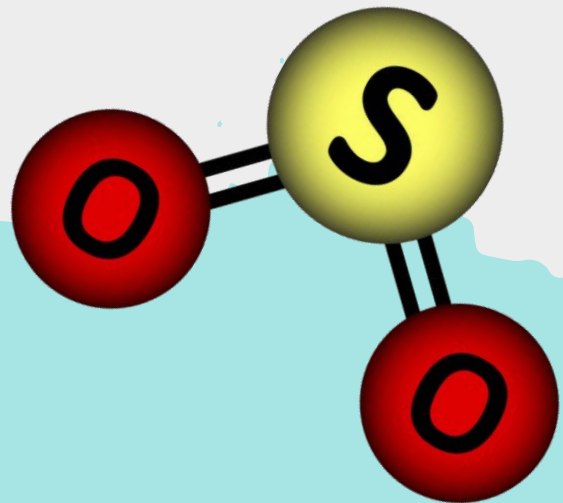
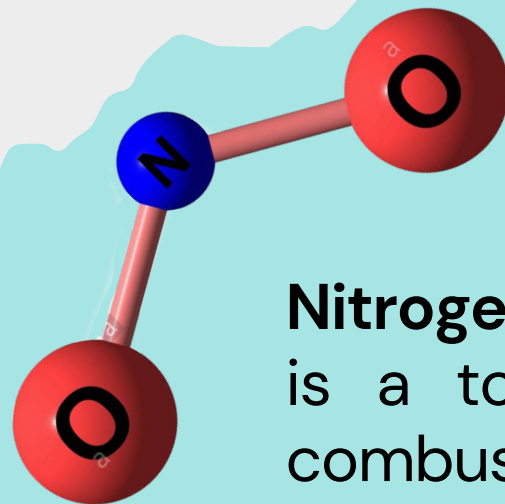


AIR POLLUTANTS



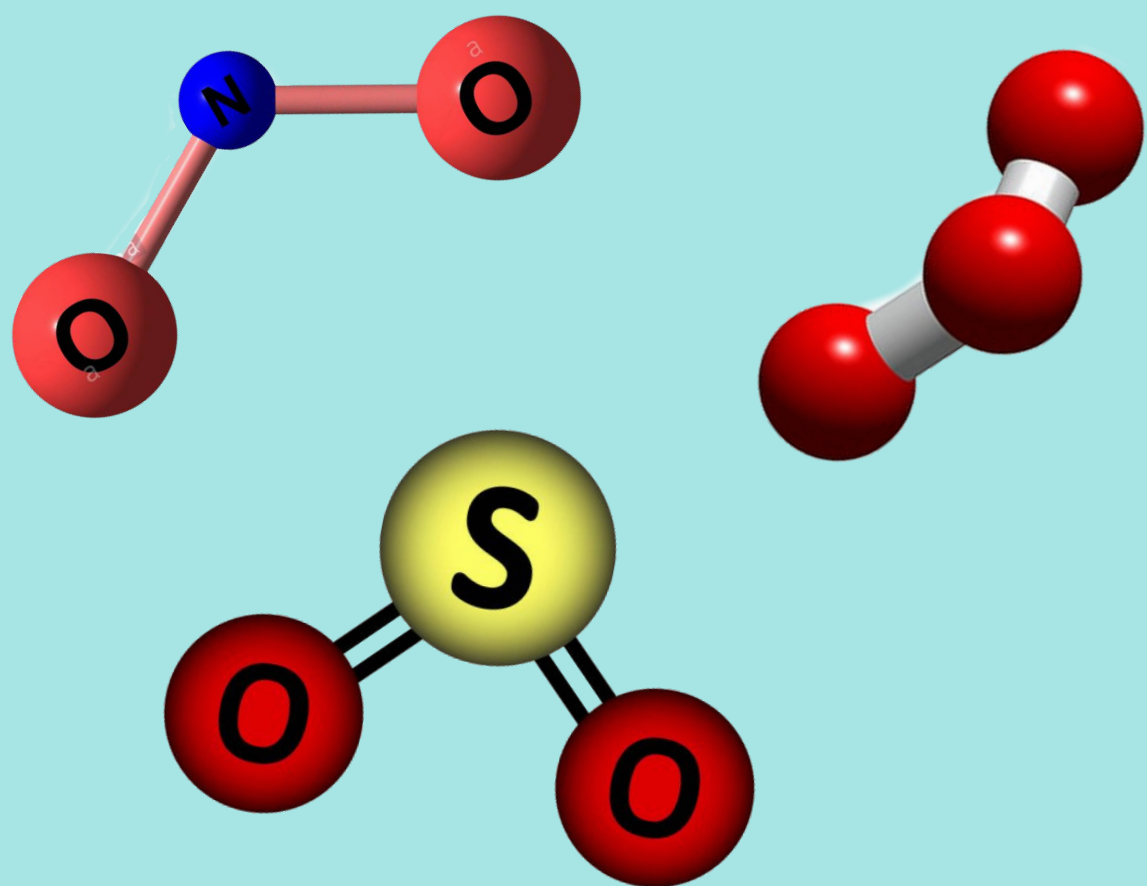
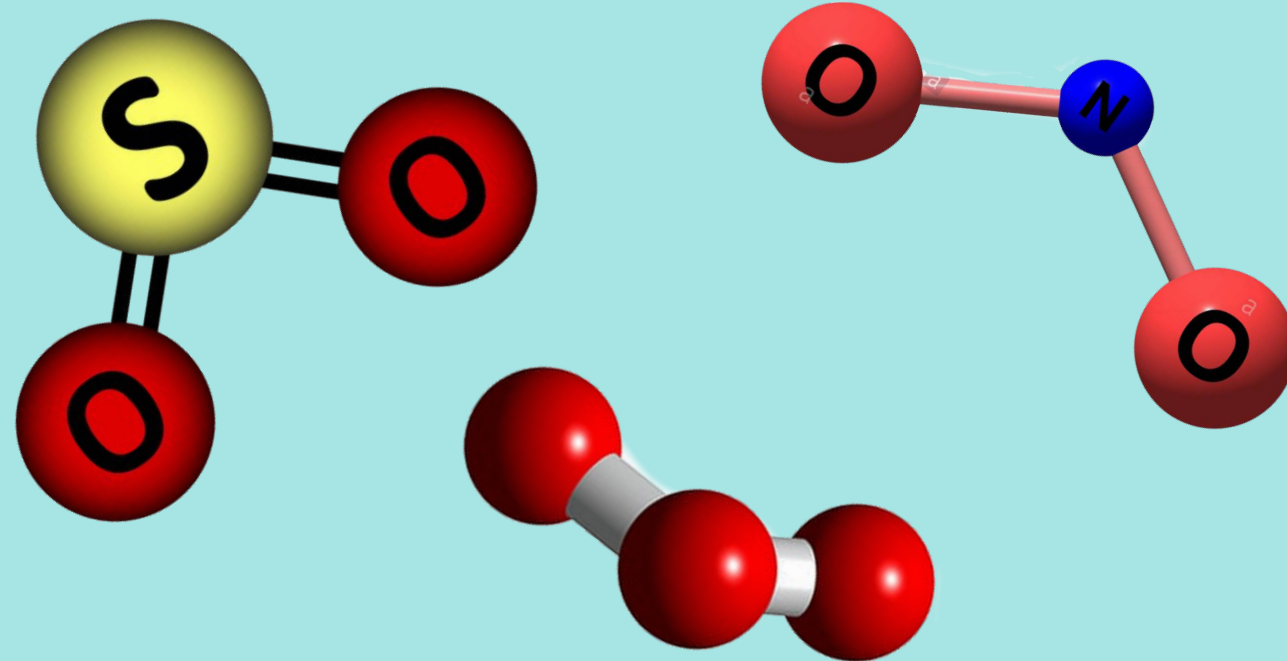
Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)

is a toxic gas that is emitted by the burning of fossil fuels — coal, oil, and diesel — or other materials that contain sulfur. Sources include power plants, metals processing and smelting facilities, and vehicles. Sulfur dioxide irritates the skin and mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. High concentrations of SO₂ can cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory system, especially during heavy physical activity.



Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)

is a toxic gas that is produced during combustion processes, such as in the engine of a car. NO₂ aggravates respiratory diseases — particularly asthma — and stunts the development of children's lungs.

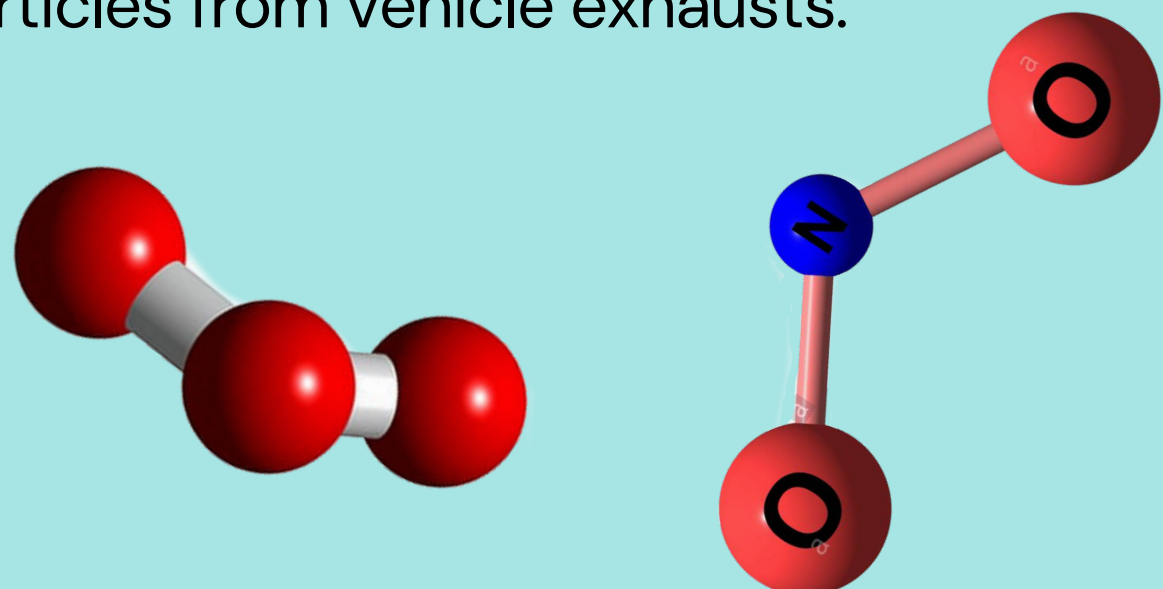
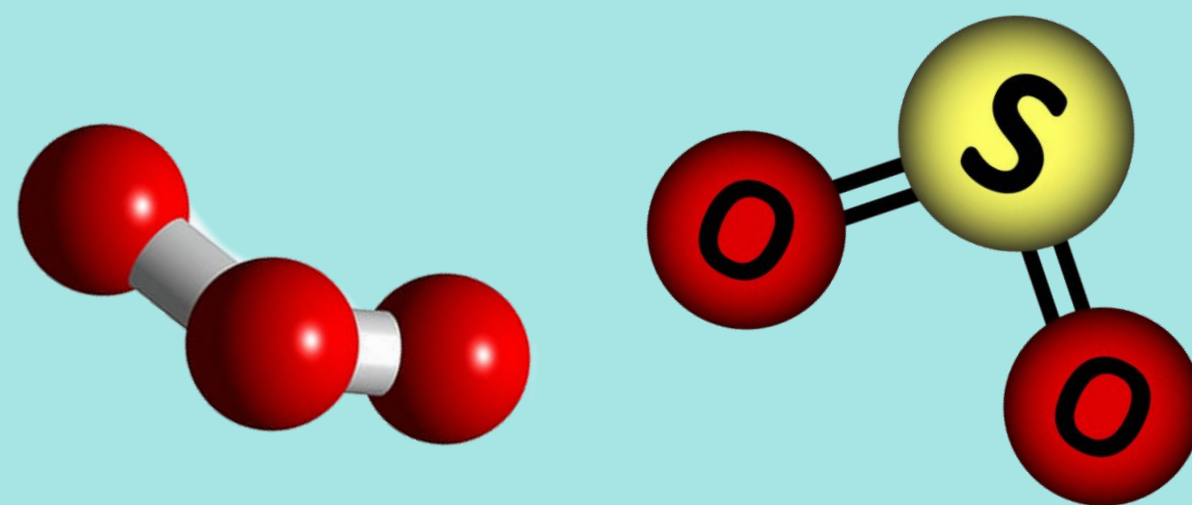


Ozone (O₃)

is formed by a complex reaction between nitrogen dioxide and hydrocarbons in the presence of sunlight. It is considered to be a criteria pollutant in the troposphere. People with asthma, children, older adults, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers are the people most at risk when breathing air with ozone. In addition, people with certain genetic characteristics, and people with reduced intake of certain nutrients, such as vitamins C and E, are at greater risk from ozone exposure.

PM_{2.5}, also known as fine particulate matter,

refers to particles or liquid droplets in the air that have a diameter less than 2.5 micrometres across (that's one 400th of a millimetre, about 3 per cent of the diameter of a human hair). Some PM_{2.5} is naturally occurring, such as dust and sea salt, and some is man-made, such as particles from vehicle exhausts.



-PM₁₀, coarse particulate matter

refers to a complex mixture of particles or liquid droplets in the air that have a diameter less than 10 micrometres across;