

## What is Ozone pollution?

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### About Ozone pollution:

- Ozone ( $O_3$ ) high in the Earth's atmosphere protects us from the sun's harmful radiation. But **ozone at ground level (tropospheric ozone), is an air pollutant that harms people and plants.**
- **Ground-level ozone is a colorless and highly irritating gas** that forms just above the earth's surface.
- **How ground level ozone is formed?**
  - It is **called a "secondary" pollutant** because it is **produced when two primary pollutants react in sunlight** and stagnant air.
  - These two **primary pollutants are nitrogen oxides ( $NO_x$ ) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).**
  - These precursor primary pollutants are **each produced primarily by a variety of human activities**, including burning of fossil fuels and various industrial processes. Certain types of **volatile organic compounds can also be emitted from natural sources.**
- **Impacts:**
  - Ground-level ozone is known to have **significant effects on human health**. Exposure to ozone has been linked to **pre-mature mortality** and a range of **morbidity health issues**.
  - It can significantly **impact vegetation and decrease the productivity of some crops.**

- It can also **damage synthetic materials**, cause cracks in rubber, accelerate fading of dyes, and speed deterioration of some paints and coatings.

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**Source:** [Why ozone prominent pollutant over past two days in Delhi](#)

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