

# Air quality

## Publications

### Winter smog, summer smog

We can all help to cut air pollution. Here are some simple hints. These are especially important when pollution levels are high.



### On the road

Road vehicles are a major source of air pollution in urban areas - they are responsible for over half the nitrogen dioxide emissions and over 75% of carbon monoxide in the UK

- Avoid using your car for short journeys - 2.5km or less
- If possible, don't use your car at all during periods of high pollution
- Start your engine only once you are ready to move off
- Don't rev the engine unnecessarily
- Drive smoothly. Heavy braking and rapid acceleration means you use more fuel and increase pollution
- Keep to the speed limit
- Maintain your car. Keep the engine properly tuned and the tyres at the right pressure
- Use public transport whenever you can

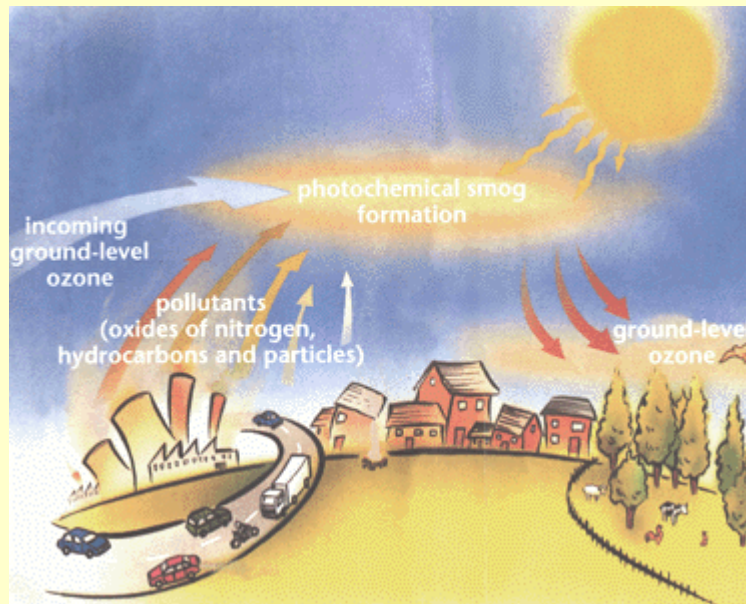
### DIY

- Use water-based or low-solvent products - paints, glues, varnishes, wood preservatives, etc.

### In the garden

- Don't light a bonfire when air pollution levels are high
- Never burn household waste, especially plastics and rubber

## Summer Smog



**Caused by mixture of pollutants from:**

- road vehicles
- fuels used to provide electricity and heating in offices, factories and homes
- vapours from petrol and certain industrial premises

**Formed by:**

Action of sunlight on these pollutants forms low-level ozone close to the ground

**When:**

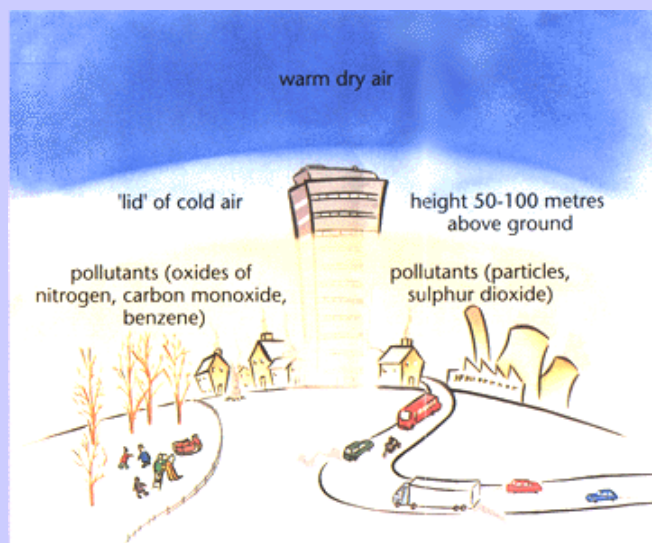
On hot sunny days

**Where does it occur:**

In urban areas -  
nitrogen dioxide and particles

In rural and suburban areas -  
mainly ozone and particles

## Winter Smog



**Caused by mixture of pollutants from:**

- road vehicles
- fuels used to provide electricity and heating in offices, factories and homes

**Formed by:**

Pollutants building up at ground level in urban areas. The 'lid' of cold air above the warm air traps the pollutants

**When:**

On cold, calm days, often after a clear, cloudless night and an early-morning frost or mist close to the ground

**Where does it occur:**

In urban areas

## AIR POLLUTION INFORMATION SERVICE

Up-to-the-minute information at your fingertips:

Concise easy-to-understand summaries

Regional forecasts

Detailed information on individual pollutants

Based on the latest medical and scientific research

Health advice

Essential for people whose health is affected by air pollution