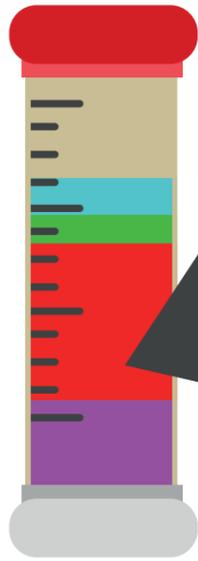




Diffusion Tubes

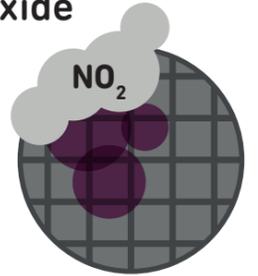
Measuring air quality

Diffusion tubes measure the amount of different types of gases that are in the air, but they are most often used to measure **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)**. If there is a lot of **Nitrogen Dioxide** in the air it can usually mean that the air is very polluted.



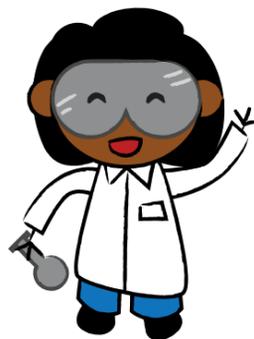
A lot of this pollution comes from fumes emitted by petrol- and diesel-powered cars.

Diffusion tubes contain a steel mesh, coated in a special chemical, beneath the coloured cap. When gases pass over this mesh a chemical reaction occurs which tells us how much Nitrogen Dioxide there is in the air.



How to use your diffusion tube

- 1 Remove the white plastic cap from the bottom of the tube.
- 2 Put the tube in its holder and secure it to a wall or pole, with the coloured cap pointing up.
- 3 **Now wait!** After 4-5 weeks the tube will have measured the amount of Nitrogen Dioxide in the air nearby.
- 4 Take down the tube and send it off to the laboratory, where a scientist will analyse it. They will then be able to tell you if the amount of Nitrogen Dioxide in the area is normal or high.



TOP TIPS

- ✓ Ensure the tube is secure and will not fall down or blow away.
- ✓ Record the time and date that you put up **and** take down the tube.
- ✓ Make a note of changes in the area such as road works, school holiday periods, etc.
- ✗ Do not place the tube upside down, in a windy spot, in a doorway or in a hole - it won't be able to measure properly.

For help or advice please contact

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