

### Other actions that help reduce air pollution

- Reduce the use of your car and of other gadgets like compressors, lawn mowers, etc.
- Arrange an itinerary to save time and money if you have to use your car.
- Use alternative means of transport: buses, bicycles, or simply walk.
- Reduce the use of heating and air-conditioning.
- Buy energy saving gadgets and bulbs. You will reduce levels of pollution and save money.

### Quick facts

- All of us should be responsible for the use and abuse of certain products that have a negative effect on nature
- All life on earth depends on the existence of a thin shield of a poisonous gas high in the atmosphere: the ozone layer.
- All of us can contribute to the protection of the environment.



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# World Ozone Day

16 September

30 Years of Healing the Ozone Together  
Ozone: All there is between you and UV



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, an important milestone in the protection of the ozone layer. The theme celebrates the collective efforts of the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in protecting the ozone layer over the past three decades, and the supporting slogan highlights the importance of the ozone layer in protecting life on Earth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

As a result of concerted global efforts, the ozone layer is healing itself and is expected to recover by the middle of this century. In addition, up to 2 million cases of skin cancer may be prevented each year by 2030 and significant adverse effects on agriculture, wildlife, fisheries and materials have been avoided.

South Africa as a party to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances has taken radical steps in protecting the ozone layer. This is done through collaborative efforts between government departments and industry. Amongst others, Regulations Regarding the Phasing-out and Management of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs), ODS permitting system, training of Customs and Environmental Inspectors at the ports of entries, consultations through quarterly Stakeholder meetings and awareness campaigns.

Why the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer The Montreal Protocol Convention under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) seeks to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the ozone depleting substances.

South Africa is party to both the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated annually on the 16th September

This day has been marked by the UNEP to commemorate the 16 September 1987, when a group of twenty-four countries came together and signed the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

### *What is Ozone?*

A colourless unstable toxic gas with a pungent odour and powerful oxidizing properties, formed from oxygen by electrical discharges or ultraviolet light. It differs from normal oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) in having three atoms in its molecule (O<sub>3</sub>). Ozone layer- a layer in the earth's stratosphere at an altitude of about 10 km (6.2 miles) containing a high concentration of ozone, which absorbs the harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) emanating from the sun. It therefore shields plant and animal life from UV-B, which in high doses can be particularly damaging.

More UV-B radiation means more skin cancers, more diseases and eye cataracts, less yield from plants, less productivity from oceans and damage to plastics, among other things.

### *What is Ozone friendly?*

not harmful to the ozone layer; using substances that do not produce gases harmful to the ozone layer.

### *Ozone depleting substances (ODSs)*

are those substances which deplete or destroy the ozone layer.

### *Use of ODSs*

they are widely used in refrigerators, air-conditioners, fire extinguishers, in dry cleaning, as a propellant in aerosols (though the amounts used in the country are insignificant), as solvents for cleaning, electronic equipment and as agricultural fumigants.

Example of ODS: Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Halon, Carbon tetrachloride (CCl<sub>4</sub>), Methyl chloroform (CH<sub>3</sub>CCl<sub>3</sub>), Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs),

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Methyl bromide (CH<sub>3</sub>Br) and Bromochloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>BrCl)

### *How should we preserve the ozone layer?*

There are many and simple ways in which we can save our ozone layer. With these simple rules we can create a chain of consciousness that will make manufacturers stop creating non-environmentally friendly products.

- Avoid buying and using aerosols and sprays composed of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC).
- Avoid using fire extinguishers with halogenated hydrocarbon since it is a very aggressive substance for the ozone layer.
- Avoid buying insulating material made up of CFC and HCFC.
- Maintain/ clean air-conditioning because if they do not function properly, they emit CFC and HCFC to the atmosphere
- Check the freezer and car air-conditioning. If they do not function properly, have them repair because they may have leaks.
- Opt to buy a refrigerator or an air-conditioning without CFC and/or HCFC.
- Reduce the use of products with Bromomethane in some sown fields and crops.

