

# THE OZONE LAYER

Certain chemicals that humans use rise into the Stratosphere and destroy ozone molecules. Because of this, the ozone layer thins and forms a hole over the South Pole each year.

The thinning of the ozone layer means more ultraviolet light from the Sun can reach Earth's surface which can damage our eyes and our skin as well as our plants.

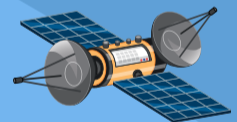
Scientists have discovered which chemicals are harming our ozone layer. A treaty, called the Montreal Protocol, was created to stop people from making these chemicals. It will take many years for the ozone layer to heal.

When sunlight from the Sun interacts with oxygen ( $O_2$ ) in the Stratosphere, **ozone** ( $O_3$ ) is created.

Although we cannot see the ozone layer, it acts like sunblock, blocking most of the Sun's ultraviolet rays from reaching Earth's surface.

EXOSPHERE  
THERMOSPHERE  
MESOSPHERE  
STRATOSPHERE  
OZONE LAYER

TROPOSPHERE



REFERENCE LINK: [https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/eokids/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/05/26\\_Ozone\\_6\\_2020\\_508.pdf](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/eokids/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/05/26_Ozone_6_2020_508.pdf)