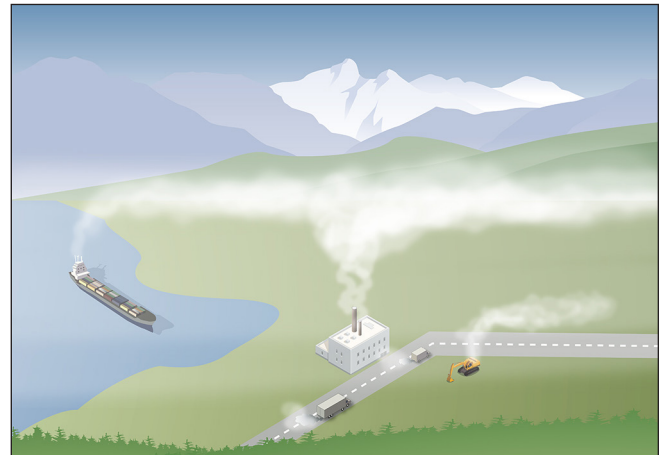


# HOW WEATHER AFFECTS VISUAL AIR QUALITY

**VISUAL AIR QUALITY** describes the effect of air pollution on how well we can see through the air and how the scenery looks. It does not refer to views hidden by weather conditions such as clouds or rain. However, weather affects how well air pollution disperses.

## UNIFORM HAZE



In a well-mixed atmosphere, pollutants tend to disperse quickly. Haze will appear uniform and views won't be fully obscured.

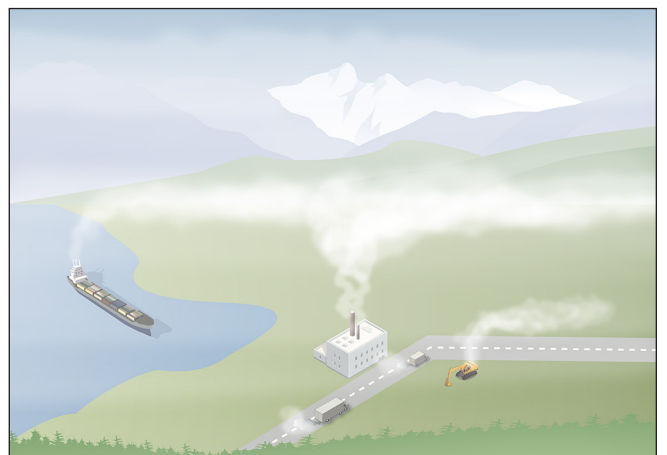
## TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS



When the atmosphere is stable or stagnant, pollutants don't mix or disperse very well. A stable air mass can form when the winds are relatively calm and temperatures at the ground are colder than temperatures higher up in the atmosphere.

This phenomenon, known as a temperature inversion, traps pollutants near the surface of the earth.

## LAYERED HAZE



Pollutants emitted during these stable, stagnant periods appear as either a distinct plume (see left) or as layered haze which can completely obscure scenic vistas.