

WHERE IS CO₂?

Let's learn more about CO₂.

Read the descriptions below to find the correct molecule!

NAME

My full name is Carbon Dioxide.

The meaning of my name indicates that I'm made of 1 carbon and 2 oxygen atoms.

But don't mistake me for my sibling, Carbon Monoxide! Their name means they have only 1 oxygen atom, and they're pretty toxic.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I am linear in shape, with my single carbon atom positioned at the center, flanked by my 2 oxygen atoms. Double bonds hold us tightly together, creating a strong, secure, and nearly unbreakable connection.

As a result, breaking me apart takes a lot of energy, which makes me very resilient and is one of the reasons why I am able to stick around the atmosphere for long times.

NATURAL HABITAT

Did you find it?

I exist everywhere, easily mixing in with air, but I stay mostly in the lower atmosphere because my molecular weight of 44 g/mol is denser than air, which is ~29 g/mol. You'll also find me dissolved in the ocean, helping plants grow, adding fizz to soda and sparkling drinks, and leavening dough or batter to make them more fluffy with agents like yeast!

FUN FACTS

While I am harmless to humans in most situations, too much can be dangerous in confined spaces. If I build up in them, I can displace oxygen, making it hard to breathe—like drowning without water. That's why proper ventilation is so important in spaces where I can accumulate, like underground caves or enclosed rooms!

