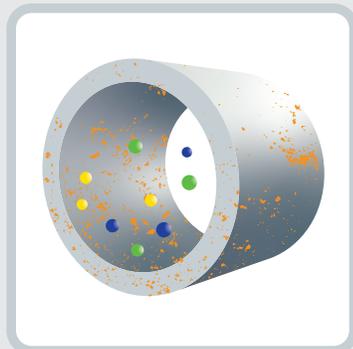


Where has the odorant gone?

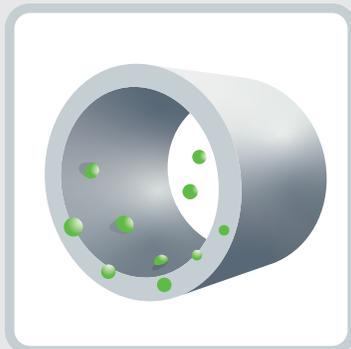
Odor fade (loss of odor) can occur in sections of pipeline when certain physical or chemical processes cause the concentration of odorant to decrease in the gas stream. Common culprits that cause odor fade are: chemical reactions, adsorption and absorption.

Chemical Reactions



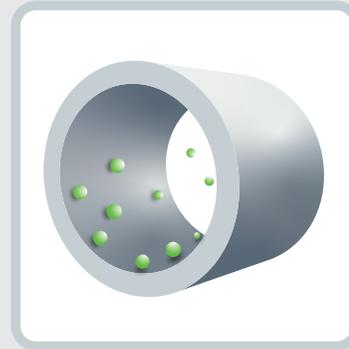
In some conditions, odorants can react to form less odorous chemicals; most commonly seen in pipelines with rust.

Absorption



Odorants can be absorbed into the pores or internal layers of piping; most commonly, in low-flow or stagnant sections.

Adsorption



Odorants can adhere to pipeline surfaces instead of flowing within the gas stream; most commonly seen in new piping.

As such, you should not rely solely on your sense of smell to detect a leak source.

Gas detectors listed by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) can be used as an extra measure of safety for detecting gas leaks, especially under conditions where the odorant alone may not provide an adequate warning. Gas detectors emit a loud, shrill sound when gas is present and do not depend on sense of smell. Because the odor intensity can fade or people may have problems with their sense of smell, we recommend installing, per manufacturer's instructions, one or more combustible gas detectors, in suitable locations to ensure adequate coverage to detect gas leaks.

Educate yourself, your employees, and your customers with the content of this warning and other important facts associated with the so-called "odor-fade phenomenon".

The content above was developed using material found in Chapter 7 of the "Odorization Manual" written by the American Gas Association (2017).

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Specialty Chemicals

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