



# CO<sub>2</sub> and the Haber process

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The Haber process needs hydrogen gas and this is produced from natural gas in a two-stage process, which produces carbon dioxide as a by-product. The carbon dioxide is absorbed in a solvent, leaving hydrogen gas. Later the carbon dioxide is removed from the solvent and supplied to industry. Recent high prices for methane caused two Haber process plants in the UK to temporarily shut down as the process had become uneconomic. This lack of carbon dioxide led to potential shortages of many products, including fizzy drinks.



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1. Where does the nitrogen gas needed in the Haber process come from?
2. What is the ammonia produced by the Haber process used for?
3. Explain why the cost of natural gas can make the Haber process uneconomic.



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