

# What is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is more complex than you might think. It's actually primarily composed of a **mixture** of four naturally occurring gases that have different molecular structures. These gases are used for an amazing **variety** of purposes in our modern lives.

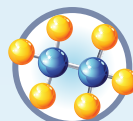
*Natural gas primarily consists of:*

Methane

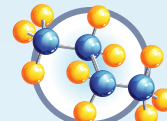


70-90%

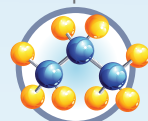
Ethane



Butane



Propane



0-20%

*How large  
is our supply?*

Domestic natural gas production has grown 53% in the past 10 years and we are now the world's largest producer. It's estimated that we have a 90-year supply of natural gas.

## How is it used?

**Transportation:** There are more than 160,000 natural gas vehicles on American roads. That number is expected to grow. Natural gas has become an increasingly popular fuel for bus and truck fleets.



**Electricity generation:** 31% of the nation's electricity is generated by natural gas. The Energy Information Administration expects that 46% of the new generating capacity added to the grid by 2035 will come from natural gas.



**Manufacturing:** Natural gas is used to generate process steam for industrial applications like the production of **steel** and paper. It's also used as a feedstock for petrochemicals – the building blocks of plastics, fertilizers, synthetic fibers, cosmetics and even medicines.



**Heating:** More than 50% of American homes use natural gas to efficiently provide heat, hot water and fuel for cooking.



**96%** of the manufactured goods we use every day contain products that were made possible with natural gas feedstock.



The abundance of natural gas is expected to generate 1.8 million new American jobs by 2040.