

Négociation Relation Client

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**Black Friday to cause spikes in air pollution and plastic waste, warn
Environmentalists**

5 The online shopping frenzy¹ of the [Black Friday](#) weekend will see 82,000 diesel vans and trucks on UK roads, raising concerns of air pollution spikes² on residential streets as more than £7bn of purchases are
10 delivered.

In the UK online shoppers are expected to spend up to £1.35bn today alone, according to analysts at IMRG³, the UK's online retail association. Plastic toys, games and
15 electronic goods are among the most sought after items in the [biggest weekend of shopping](#) in Britain and the US, with environmentalists and health experts warning that it will add to the [mountain of plastic waste and increase air pollution](#).

20 The relatively modern post-Thanksgiving tradition has been adopted from the US, where nearly 70% of Americans – 164 million people – plan to shop this weekend, which spans⁴ Black Friday through to Cyber Monday, according to the National Retail Federation. In the UK, Black Friday is mostly an online event, although retailers also saw queues this morning at shopping centres across the country.

25 81% of Black Friday purchases include a home delivery, with Amazon expected to take the majority of sales. A diesel truck will leave an Amazon fulfilment centre every 93 seconds at peak times, according to Staveley Head, which insures trucks and vans for retailers.

30 Stephen Holgate, professor of immunopharmacology at the Medical Research Council, said online shopping contributed to the air pollution crisis. "Vans are key contributors to diesel pollution. In [our RCP \[Royal College of Physicians\] report](#) we show van use continues to increase. Vans are now up to 10-12% of vehicles in our cities. They, along with small goods transport vehicles, are almost all diesel and make up about 12% of diesel emissions in urban settings.

35 "Supermarket and internet shopping really drives this and unlike people going to the shops themselves, the vans penetrate into quiet residential roads where vulnerable groups like children and the elderly live in large numbers. These vans sit and idle for hours in the road as they wait to deliver more packages, and this is a huge problem."

Sandra Laville (354 words)



¹ Frenzy = hysteria, madness

² Spikes = peaks

³ Interactive Media in Retail Group

⁴ Span ... through.... = extend across (a period of time)