

50-90% (high-sulphur coal)

1. Limestone scrubbing (with physical coal cleaning where upper limit on SO₂ emission applies)
2. Fluidized-bed combustion^a
3. Chemical coal cleaning
4. Low-sulphur fuel substitution (not a sulphur removal process)
5. Limestone injected through modified burner^b

50-90% (low-sulphur coal)

1. Spray drier process
2. Limestone scrubbing

Below 50%

1. Physical coal cleaning
2. Blending with low-sulphur coal

^aWhen and if developed.

^bUnder development.

Table A.2.1 summarizes the cost data available for sulfur oxide controls on thermal power plants. Physical coal cleaning costs approximately \$15 per ton of coal for high-sulfur coals (i.e., approximately \$0.22 per pound of sulfur removal). (For low-sulfur coals the price is considerably higher i.e., around \$1.88 per pound of sulfur removal).

The cost for flue gas desulphurization (FGD) ranges between \$120 - \$200 per kilowatt of installed capacity. Using lime instead of limestone raises the costs. FGD recovery processes, such as the dual alkali and Wellman-Lord processes, tend to be more expensive than wet scrubbing. Dry scrubbers cost \$120 - \$140 per kilowatt of installed capacity but the technology is still under development and the cost estimates are rising. Generally, there is a wide range in the costs of FGD systems due to site-specific variables.

NO_x Reduction

Several approaches can be used for NO_x control. Low-nitrogen fuel is one of these but is not as effective as low-sulphur fuel is for SO₂ because part of the NO_x comes from the combustion air rather than the fuel. Combustion modification, the most cost-effective method, is used to some degree. If flue gas treatment is required, injection of ammonia to reduce NO_x to nitrogen is favoured. Use of a catalyst promotes the reaction