

Cloud Types

	Characteristics	Altitude
Cumulonimbus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall, towering clouds, may form an anvil shape • Clouds of this type are associated with thunderstorms and heavy rain 	500 to 1,800 meters
Cumulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense, fluffy clouds • Form in fair weather 	500 to 1,800 meters
Nimbostratus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thick layer of dark clouds • Usually produce steady, hard precipitation 	Below 2,000 meters
Stratus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low layer of gray clouds; may cover the whole sky. • Usually produce light rain 	Below 2,000 meters
Stratocumulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft, gray clouds may form one continuous layer • May produce light rain or snow 	Below 2,000 meters
Altostratus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray clouds, may form in ripples • May produce continuous light rain 	2,000 to 6,000 meters
Alto cumulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light gray clouds that form in patches or rolls • May indicate upcoming storm 	2,000 to 6,000 meters
Cirrostratus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veil-like clouds, have been known to form halos around the moon and sun • Associated with fair weather. May precede an upcoming storm 	Above 6,000 meters
Cirrocumulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, thin clouds that look like ripples or waves • Form in fair weather but may precede an upcoming storm 	Above 6,000 miles
Cirrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin, feathery clouds of ice crystals • Form in fair weather but may precede an upcoming storm 	Above 6,000 miles