



Cumulonimbus

Cirrus

Cirrostratus

Cirrocumulus

High Clouds

Altostratus

Nimbostratus

Altostratus

Middle Clouds

-20,000 ft.

-6,500 ft.

Stratocumulus

Stratus

Cumulus

Low Clouds



# NOAA Cloudwise



There are ten basic cloud types arranged in three divisions based on the altitude at which they form. Low level clouds are Cumulus, Cumulonimbus, Stratus, and Stratocumulus. Middle level clouds are Altostratus, Altostratus and Nimbostratus. High level clouds are Cirrus, Cirrocumulus and Cirrostratus. Precipitation primarily occurs from Cumulus, Cumulonimbus and Nimbostratus.

These ten clouds are further divided into 27 classifications. Many of these classifications represent the same basic cloud type (or combinations of clouds) but in various stages of development, opacity, or sky cover.

Learn more about clouds at [www.weather.gov/jetstream](http://www.weather.gov/jetstream)