



High Clouds

Middle Clouds

Low Clouds

Cirrus

Cirrostratus

Cirrocumulus

-20,000 ft.

Altostratus

Nimbostratus

Altopcumulus

-6,500 ft.

Stratocumulus

Cumulonimbus

Stratus

Cumulus



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 Altopcumulus, 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