

Major Cloud Types



Cirrus		
	 Thin, feather-like Ice crystals High altitudes Patches or bands 	 If wispy, no significant icing or turbulence If dense or in bands, turbulence is likely
Stratus		
	 Gray, low bases Sheet-like Usually associated with low pressure systems 	 Little, if any turbulence Icing possible Can be associated with fog and rain
Cumulus		
	 Convective currents Flat bases Dome-shaped tops Rain not likely 	 Turbulence possible Icing possible Find approximate height of bases by: H=(T-DP)/4.4*
Towering Cumulus		
	 Unstable air Extensive vertical development "Cauliflower" tops 	Severe turbulence likelyIcing possibleRain possible
Cumulonimbus		
	 Thunderstorms Vertically developed Cirrus cloud anvil Tops 25,000-50,000 feet 	 Violent turbulence likely Always avoid Anvil points in the direction of movement
Lenticular		
	 Lee side of mountain Little movement Found on crest of wave activity 	 Strong turbulence beneath cloud Significant updrafts and downdrafts

* H=thousands of feet AGL, T=surface temperature in °F, DP=dew point in °F
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