

CLOUD IDENTIFICATION CHART

HIGH LEVEL (ABOVE 20,000 FT)

Cirrus

Wispy, feathery ice crystals.

Cirrocumulus

Small ripples or grain-like patterns.

Cirrostratus

Thin veil, often creates halos around sun.

MID LEVEL (6,500 - 20,000 FT)

Alto cumulus

Gray or white patches/round masses.

Altostratus

Uniform gray sheet, blurs the sun.

Nimbostratus

Dark, thick layer bringing steady rain.

LOW LEVEL (BELOW 6,500 FT) & VERTICAL

Cumulus

Fluffy "cotton balls" with flat bases.

Stratus

Flat, featureless gray blanket or fog.

Cumulonimbus

Towering storm clouds with anvil tops. Spans all altitudes.

Stratocumulus

Low, puffy layers with dark shading.