

CHARACTERISTIC WEATHER CHANGES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF FRONTS

Weather Element	Cold Front		Warm Front	
	Before	After	Before	After
Temperature	warm	cold	cool	warm
Wind Direction	southwest	northwest	southeast	southwest
Wind Speed	moderate	high	low	moderate
Clouds	cirrus/cumulus	cumulus/clear	stratus/nimbus	cumulus/clear
Air Pressure	low	high	high	low
Humidity	high	low	moderate	high
Precipitation	showers/ thunderstorms	none/showers	moderate	showers/none

GENERAL RULES FOR PREDICTING WEATHER CHANGES
(may vary with geographical location)

Look for a change to cloudy, unsettled weather when:

- The temperature rises abruptly, and at night is higher than usual.
- Air pressure falls steadily.
- The wind shifts to a southerly or easterly direction.
- Clouds move in different directions at different levels.
- Clouds get thicker and darker.
- After a day or two of westerly or northerly winds, the wind velocity drops at sunset and the sun sets clear with a few cirrus clouds in the west.
- A large ring (halo) appears around the sun or moon, and remains until clouds thicken and cover it up.
- There is a flow of moist air from the south. Fog may form.
- You suspect that a warm or cold front is approaching.

Look for steady precipitation when:

- The wind is south to southeast, and the air pressure is falling. If the pressure is falling slowly, rain will occur within a day. If it's falling rapidly, it will rain within a few hours and wind speeds will increase.
- The wind is southeast to northeast, and the pressure is falling. It will rain within a few hours.
- Thunderclouds develop against a south or southeast wind.

Look for showers when:

- Thunderclouds develop in a westerly wind.
- Cumulus clouds develop rapidly during early afternoon.

Look for clearing weather when:

- The temperature falls rapidly, especially in the afternoon.
- Air pressure rises.
- The wind shifts to a westerly or northwesterly direction.
- Clouds appear to break up and clear patches of sky show.
- The bases of clouds increase in elevation.
- You suspect that a cold front has passed.

Look for continued bright weather when:

- The temperature is normal.
- Air pressure remains steady or rises.
- A light breeze blows from the west or northwest.
- Cloudiness decreases after 3 or 4 pm, and the sunset is clear.
- Morning fog breaks within two hours after sunrise.
- There is dew or frost at night.
- A red sunset occurs.

Look for colder weather when:

- Air pressure is low and falling rapidly, wind east or northeast and backing slowly into the north (the fall in temperature will be gradual).
- The wind swings from the southwest to the west or from the west to the northwest or north.
- A westerly wind drops in speed at night, and the sunset is clear.
- Clouds break up after a storm (if they clear in the morning, it will be warmer in the afternoon).
- You suspect that a cold front has passed.

Look for warmer weather when:

- Air pressure falls (in summer, falling barometer may indicate cloudy weather, which will be cooler than clear weather).
- The wind swings away from the north or west to the southwest or south.
- It's cloudy at night.
- The morning sky is clear, except if the wind is strong from the north or west.
- You suspect that a warm front has passed.