

## Fronts, Fronts and More Fronts

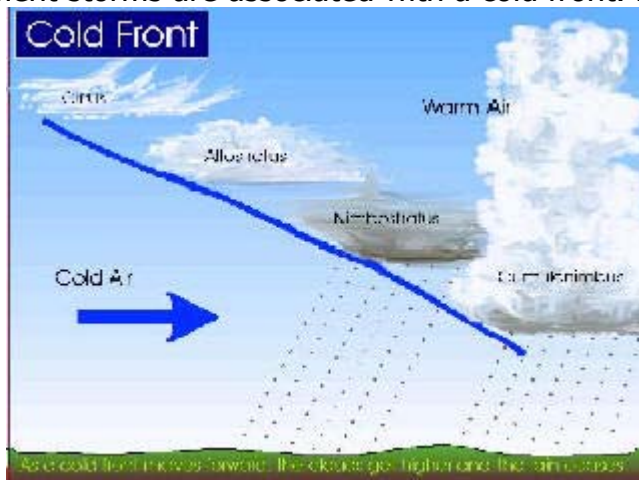
When you're watching a Weatherman on Television you may notice the symbols below on their maps. We will cover the four types of fronts and what to look for to identify them.



A **warm front** forms when a mass of warm air overtakes a cold air mass and moves over it. Rain and showers usually accompany a warm front. Hot, humid weather usually follows.



A **cold front** forms when a cold air mass meets and pushes under a warm air mass. Violent storms are associated with a cold front. Fair, cool weather usually



follows.

An **occluded front** occurs when a cold front catches up and overtakes a warm front. Forcing the warm air to rise up. An occluded front produces less extreme weather than a cold front or a warm front.

A **stationary front** forms when a warm air mass meets a cold air mass and no movement occurs. If warm air is trying to advance, it will be forced to rise over the cold air. This can lead to extensive areas of clouds and precipitation, just as we have with warm fronts.

When trying to label a front on a surface weather map:

- Look for sharp temperature changes over a short distance.
- Watch for a change in moisture content
- Are there rapid shifts in wind direction?
- Keep an eye on pressure changes
- Watch the cloud and precipitation patterns

Make your own forecast then compare it to others forecasts and note how things work out.

[Learn about air masses and more](#) (Pictures and explanations)

[Explanation of Fronts & Lift](#)

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk/soo/docu/basicwx.htm> Surface Maps