

Guide Survival Badge ... Some signs of changing weather

When you are on a hike or at camp, some basic knowledge about how to predict weather will help you plan ahead and keep safe.

Clouds...

An ability to accurately read cloud formations is important when you want to understand how to predict weather. [Clouds are classified](#) into different types, according to height and shape. Not all clouds bring rain, some are signs of fine weather.

During a fine day (1), the clouds are white, the higher the finer. Storm clouds (2) are generally black, low, and massed in large clusters. If wet weather is approaching (3), the cloud will form a grayish veil. This means it is time to take shelter.



<http://www.wilderness-survival-skills.com/how-to-predict-weather.html>

Red Sky...

A red sky at either dusk or dawn is one of the most beautiful natural signs you can use to predict the weather. At dusk, a red sky indicates that the next day will probably be a dry and fine day. This is due to the sun shining through dust particles being pushed ahead of a high pressure system bringing in dry air. A red sky at dawn often means that an approaching low pressure system is bringing in a lot of moisture in the air. This is a fair indication that a storm is approaching.

Animals... Animals sense the movements in air pressure that precede all weather changes. Watch the animals around you and see if you notice changes in their behavior with various types of weather.

Take note of the birds. If they are flying high in the sky, there will probably be fair weather. Falling air pressure caused by an coming storm causes discomfort in birds' ears, so they fly low to get away from it. Large numbers of birds roosting on power lines indicates swiftly falling air pressure.

Seagulls tend to stop flying and take refuge at the coast if a storm is coming.

Birds get very quiet just before it rains.

Pay attention to the cows. They will usually lie down before a thunderstorm. They also tend to stay close together if bad weather's on the way.

Your Guiders! - When we are running around at camp shouting at you to zip up tents, hammer in tent pegs and put on waterproofs you can be sure that bad weather is coming! :-)

Wind direction... If you don't know the wind's direction, throw a small piece of grass in to the air and watch its descent. Easterly winds, which blow from the east, can indicate an approaching storm front; westerly winds mean good weather. Strong winds indicate high pressure differences, which can be a sign of advancing storm fronts.