



**Precipitation-** any form of water that falls from clouds and reaches Earth's surface.

Type of Precipitation	How it forms/Characteristics
Rain	0.5 mm in diameter drops; smaller called mist or drizzle; rain from cumulonimbus clouds; drizzle and mist from nimbostratus clouds
Sleet	Rain falling through air below 0°C forms ice particles; particles smaller than 5 mm in diameter
Freezing Rain	Raindrops freeze on the ground surface instead of in the air; forms a slick, slippery layer of ice
Hail	Pellets of ice larger than 5 mm in diameter; form in cumulonimbus clouds when frozen pellets of rain are tossed up and down in the cloud adding layers; hailstones fall when they become too heavy
Snow	Six-sided crystals of frozen water