

## Winter and Summer Storms Explanations

Typically, winter storms come from the north. The storms that we are having right now are coming from the north and have a lot of cold air behind them. Down in the four corners area, even though the storms are coming in from the north, sometimes the storms will wrap around and blow in from the south sort of like a backlash, but the origin is from the north. I think this is what we have to remember--where the origin of the storm came from. Because of mountain ranges and other physical terrain landscapes it can twist the winds around and so they seem to come in from another direction in other places in Utah. But when there is cold air behind the storm and it gets really cold, it is a storm from the north.

Usually, summer storms come from the south because the south winds bring in moisture from the Baja/San Diego areas. Then huge puffy cumulonimbus clouds form because of the heat rising. When the air rises the air molecules separate and separate causing a low pressure and causes the air to cool quickly. (Remember the cloud in the bottle experiment?) With moisture in the air and the air rising quickly, and the air molecules separating causing cold air, the moisture in the air turns to clouds. The faster it rises the more huge the clouds will become causing hail, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning. But when the storm is over, it will be cooler outside, but not cold and generally the area won't take long to heat up again. But when a cold front comes in it gets quite cold and the cold air stays around a while until the high pressure that has moved in begins to generate more heat.