



National Weather Service

Definitions for WINTER WEATHER

WINTER STORM WATCH: severe winter conditions **possible**.

WINTER STORM WARNING: severe winter conditions **expected**. Snow and/or sleet accumulations of 7+ inches.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: winter conditions **expected** to cause significant **inconvenience** and may be hazardous.

- **Snow and/or sleet accumulations**
 - **4 inches:** eastern New York and southern Vermont
 - **3 inches:** Berkshires and Litchfield County
- **Freezing Rain and/or Freezing Drizzle:** any accumulation of ice.

ICE STORM WARNING: ½”+ of ice accretion is expected.

BLIZZARD WARNING: Issued when heavy snow is forecast for 3 hours or more and when sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph are also expected combining to produce blinding snow (visibility near zero / whiteouts) and deep snow drifts.

WHAT'S A BLIZZARD?

BLOWING SNOW
35+ MPH WINDS

≤ 1/4 MI VISIBILITY

FOR 3+ HOURS

DID YOU KNOW THAT FALLING SNOW ISN'T NECESSARY FOR A BLIZZARD?

A BLIZZARD THAT RESULTS FROM SNOW THAT HAS PREVIOUSLY FALLEN IS CALLED A GROUND BLIZZARD.

WEATHER.GOV/WINTER

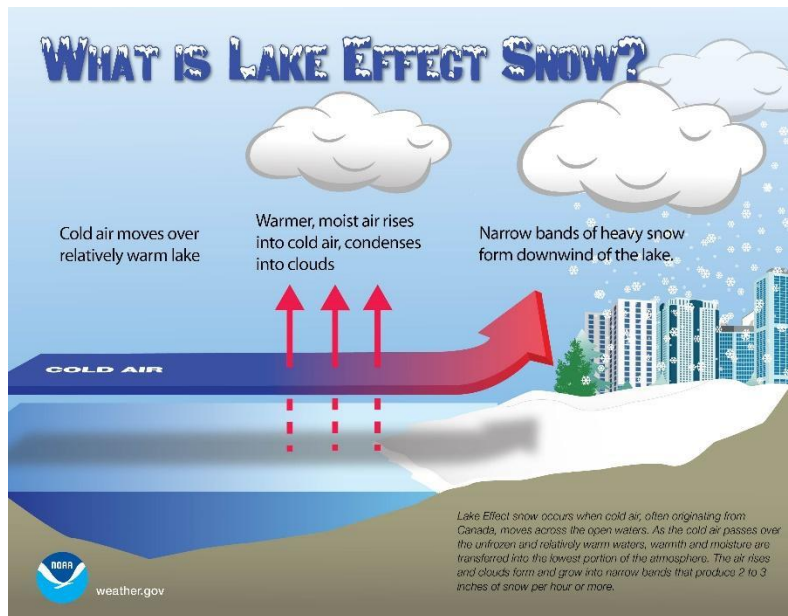
The infographic features a dark blue background with white snowflakes and icons for wind, visibility, and time. It includes the National Weather Service logo and the URL WEATHER.GOV/WINTER.



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LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING: issued when widespread or localized lake induced snow squalls or heavy showers are **expected** to produce significant snowfall accumulation. Lake effect snow usually develops in narrow bands and impacts a limited area. These bands can produce very heavy snow with sudden restrictions in visibility creating hazardous driving conditions.



SNOW SQUALL WARNING: Issued to provide advance notice of intense, but limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by gusty winds resulting in reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions.

SNOW SQUALLS

- Intense bursts of snow and wind
- Short duration
- Whiteout visibility
- Rapidly deteriorating road conditions

National Weather Service **SNOW SQUALL WARNINGS**

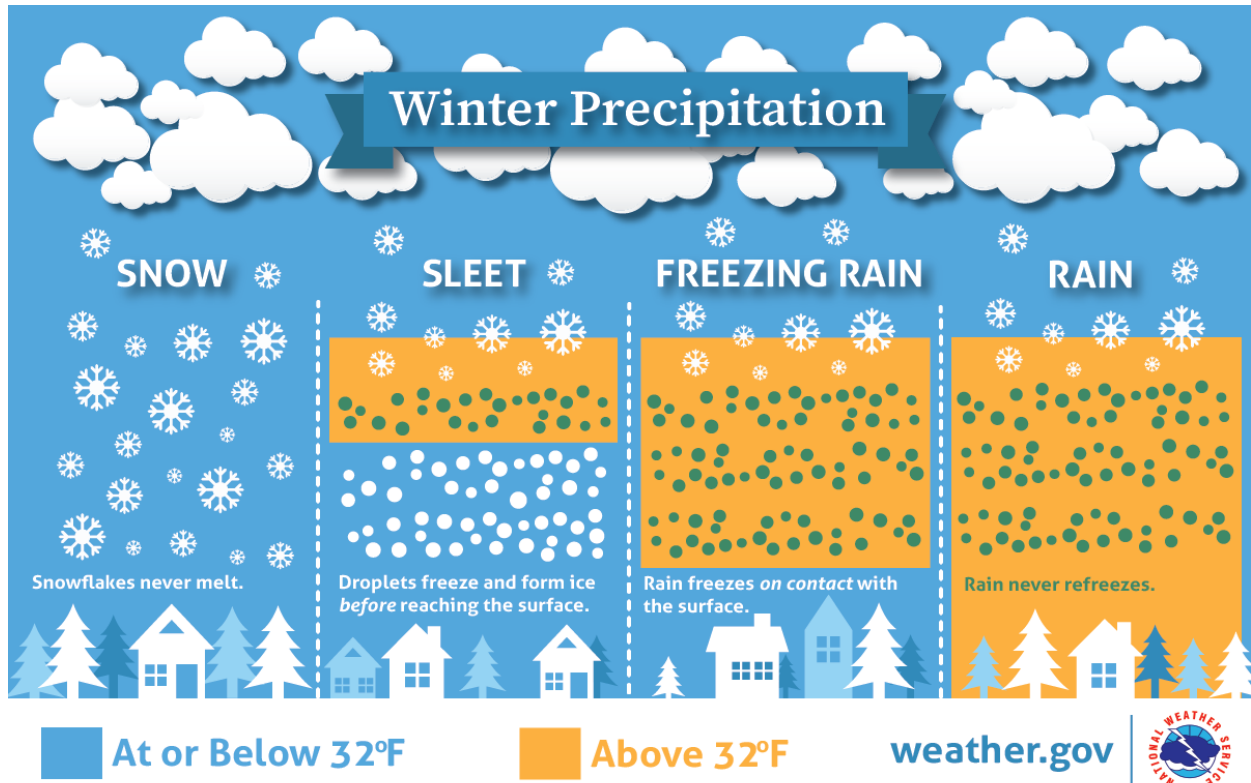
- Issued when a snow squall is occurring or imminent
- Typically in effect for 30-60 minutes in a small, targeted area
- Can trigger a Wireless Emergency Alert to your phone
- When issued, slow down or delay travel

weather.gov



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SNOW:RATIO

The percentage of water within a sample of snow is called "snow ratio". An old rule of thumb was that for every 10 inches of snow, there would be 1 inch of water (10:1).

However, snow ratios can vary dramatically around the country and from event to event.

Variables that affect snow ratio

- Depth of the "warm" layer from the surface into the snow-producing cloud.
- Amount of ice in the snow-producing cloud.
- If it's windy, snowflakes can fracture, losing their "lacy" structure.
- Deep cold leads to higher snow ratios.