

What Does Probability of Precipitation Mean?



It's the likelihood of occurrence, expressed as a percent, of a measurable amount of liquid precipitation (or the water equivalent of frozen precipitation) during a specified period of time at any given point.

Measurable precipitation is defined as equal to or greater than 0.01 inch.
The specified period of time may range from 1 to 12 hours.

It's the chance that you will receive at least 0.01 inch at your location during a specified period of time

- ❑ 20% = 1-in-5 chance you will receive at least 0.01" of precipitation at your location during a specified period of time
- ❑ 100% = You will get wet at some point during a specified period of time. It may rain all day or for just a minute.

What the PoP is NOT:

- ❑ A percentage of coverage of precipitation for any time period
- ❑ An indicator of percentage of time precipitation will occur
- ❑ An indicator of how many times precipitation has occurred in the past with this same weather pattern
- ❑ A higher PoP is NOT an indicator of intensity of any precipitation



POP Percent	Expression of Uncertainty	Equivalent Areal Qualifier
10 percent	(none used)	Isolated/ Few
20 percent	Slight Chance	Widely Scattered
30, 40, & 50 percent	Chance	Scattered
60 & 70 percent	Likely	Numerous (or none used)
80, 90, & 100 percent	(None used)	Occasional, periods of, or none used