**Typhoons v. Hurricanes**

A **cyclone** is any mass of air that spirals around a low pressure center. It is an organized collection of thunderstorms embedded in a swirling mass of air. In general, both **typhoons** and **hurricanes** are tropical cyclones but differ in their locations. The **difference between hurricane and typhoon** is that tropical [cyclones](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Cyclone_vs_Hurricane) in the west Pacific are called Typhoons and those in the Atlantic and east Pacific [Ocean](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Ocean_vs_Sea) are called Hurricanes. It's the [longitude](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Latitude_vs_Longitude) that matters.

**Comparison chart**

Differences — Similarities —

|  | **Hurricane** | **Typhoon** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **About** | A hurricane is a [cyclone](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Cyclone_vs_Hurricane) that is located in the North Atlantic Ocean, or the NE Pacific Ocean east of the International Date Line, or the South Pacific Ocean east of 160E, and with sustained winds that reach or exceed 74 mph. | Tropical cyclones in the Northwest Pacific Ocean west of the International Date Line with sustained winds of (or those that exceed) 74 mph are typhoons. |
| **Rotation** | Clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere | Clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere |
| **Intensity** | Hurricanes are classified into five categories according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The wind speed and intensity of damage increases as from category 1 to category 5. | Typhoons are generally very strong because of the Pacific’s warm water, and therefore are more frequent. They are also classified on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, but can also be classified on the Japan Meteorological Agency typhoon scal |
| **Location** | North Atlantic Ocean, the Northeast Pacific Ocean east of the International Date Line, or the South Pacific Ocean east of 160E. Hurricanes are found near the tropical zone, over warm waters in the Atlantic and Pacific ocean. | Northwest Pacific Ocean west of the International Date Line |
| **Most affected areas** | Caribbean Sea | South East Asia, China Sea etc. |
| **Frequency** | 10-15 per year | 25-30 per year |
| **Occurrence** | Usually warm areas | Usually warm areas |
| **Characteristics** | Heavy winds, floods, storm surge, a lot of rain, [tornadoes](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Cyclone_vs_Tornado) | Heavy winds, floods, storm surge, a lot of rain, [tornadoes](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Hurricane_vs_Tornado) |
| **Forms of precipitation** | Rain | Rain |