

Types of Volcanoes

When most people think of a volcano they picture a cone shaped mountain spewing lava and poisonous gases from a crater at its summit; however, this describes just one of the many types of volcanoes.

Although there are many types of volcanoes, some of the most common types are:

Stratovolcano

Stratovolcanoes, built from a layer upon layer of mostly viscous magma, have relatively steep sides and can grow to great heights. Although they are look very nice, they have the potential for violent and dangerous eruptions. Italy's Mount Vesuvius, which destroyed the city of Pompeii in 79 A.D., was a stratovolcano.

Cinder Cone

Cinder cone volcanoes are relatively small, usually less than 1000 feet high, with very steep sides and a cylindrical shape. They are built from piles of ejected rock fragments. When they erupt lava, it usually flows not from the summit but from a breach in the side or base of the volcano.

Shield Volcano

Shield volcanoes are massive structures with broad, gently sloping sides that usually build up from the sea floor. They are the largest volcanoes on Earth, built from layer upon layer of fluid, runny lava that can flow long distances before cooling. Shield volcanoes are island builders.

Some factors that affect the type of volcano are the:

Gas and Viscosity Levels

Magma viscosity and gas content are what causes the shape and explosiveness of a volcano. Magma viscosity means the 'thickness of the magma'. The gas levels affect the explosive power of the volcano.

Have a play on this [Volcano explorer](#) to see if you can make the different types of Volcanoes.

Blog

Share on your blog your favourite recipe for a volcano.

What type of volcano have you made.

What was the recipe.

Insert a screenshot of your volcano.

Provide a link to the Volcano Explorer website.



