

CHAPTER 1	Table: Albedo Values	BLM 1.1.5
OVERHEAD		

Albedo refers to the amount of energy that is reflected from a surface. Earth's albedo varies from place to place, but the average is about 30 percent.

- Light-coloured, reflective surfaces and thick cloud cover have high albedo values of 80 percent to 90 percent.
- Dark surfaces such as forest canopies (treetops) and water have lower albedo values of 25 percent or less.
- Manmade surfaces have among the lowest albedo values of 4 percent to 12 percent.

Albedo of Manmade and Natural Features

Feature	Albedo
thick clouds	90%
thin clouds	40%
fresh snow	80-90%
sand	30-35%
grass	18-25%
forest	7-18%
swamp	9-14%
city in southern hemisphere	12%
city in northern hemisphere	7%
aged paved surface	10-12%
newly paved surface	4-5%
ocean	3.5%