





It is built out of layers of lava from repeated non-explosive eruptions. The lava is very runny, so it spreads out over a wide area forming a gently sloping volcano.

Non-explosive eruption

Very runny lava. Lava has a low viscosity, which means it flows easily.

This is a small, fairly steep volcanic cone made entirely of pyroclastic material from moderately explosive eruptions. The sides are very straight.

Moderately explosive eruption

Very little lava erupts. These volcanoes mostly erupt cinders or ash which is what builds the steep side of the volcano.

It is the most common type of volcano. They are formed from explosive eruptions of ash and cinders followed by less explosive eruptions of lava. These alternating eruptions form distinct layers of pyroclastic material and lava. The sides are steep and get steeper toward the top.

Alternating eruptions

First, there is an explosive eruption of pyroclastic material, which is followed by a second non-explosive eruption of lava.