

### Answer on Question #48202 – Engineering – Other

What are wingtip vortices and what causes them?

**Solution:**

Wingtip vortices are circular patterns of rotating air left behind a wing as it generates lift.

Vortices form because of the difference in pressure between the upper and lower surfaces of a wing that is operating at a positive lift. Since pressure is a continuous function, the pressures must become equal at the wing tips. The tendency is for particles of air to move from the lower wing surface around the wing tip to the upper surface (from the region of high pressure to the region of low pressure) so that the pressure becomes equal above and below the wing.

