

Blue-green Algae



Know it.



Avoid it.



Report it.

Avoid blooms in surface waters because blue-green algae can cause health effects in people and animals.



Know it.

It might be a blue-green algae bloom if you see:

- Strongly colored water.
- Paint-like appearance.
- Floating mats or scums.



Avoid it.

Always stay away from blooms in surface waters:

- Don't swim, fish, boat or wade in areas with blooms.
- Don't eat fish caught from areas with blooms.

If you're not on a public water supply:

- Bloom or no bloom, never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water.
- During a bloom, don't drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water, even if you treat it. Also consider not using the water for showering, bathing, or washing.

If you are on a public water supply:

- Your water is treated, disinfected and monitored for drinking and household use.



Report it.

- **Report blooms to:** HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov, your local health department (health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts) or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
- **Report bloom-related symptoms to:** your local health department or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
- **Consider visiting a health care provider** if you, your family or animals are experiencing symptoms that might be related to blue-green algae exposure.

Learn more health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae