

# Blue-green Algae



**Avoid Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in surface waters - they 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 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](mailto:HABsinfo@dec.ny.gov) or [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov)
- **Report bloom-related symptoms to:** [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov)
- **Consider visiting a health care provider** or contacting Tompkins County Whole Health at (607) 274-6604 if you or your family are experiencing symptoms that might be related to blue-green algae exposure. Contact your veterinarian if you have concerns about your pet's blue-green algae exposure.

**Learn more at:**

[www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae](http://www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae),  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html) and  
[www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health)