

HARMFUL BLUE GREEN ALGAE



What is blue green algae?

Algae is an organism naturally found in bodies of water. Blue green algae is sometimes called Cyanobacteria. Some Cyanobacteria species can be harmful and they can multiply into what we call a bloom. Blooms appear as thick foam or scum in the water and they range in color from olive green to pea green to brownish red.

Why should I be worried?

It can cause serious illness or deaths in pets, livestock and humans. Good thing is that not all blooms are toxic, but since you can not tell if it is toxic just by looking at it, take precaution and stay out of scummy water.

What can happen if I am exposed to it?

Skin contact can cause rashes or irritation. If you swallow affected water these symptoms could appear: diarrhea, cramps, dizziness, tingling and in severe cases paralysis.

How do I stay safe?

Never drink or cook with water that has not been tested. In fact, do not swim or wash your clothes in it. Take caution when eating fish. Do not eat fish from an unknown source, but if you want to eat it, remove all fat, skin and organs before cooking.

**When in doubt,
STAY OUT!**

For more information visit: www.healthoregon.org/hab

IF YOU SUSPECT YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH A POISON, PLEASE CONTACT THE POISON CENTER AT 1-800-222-1222