

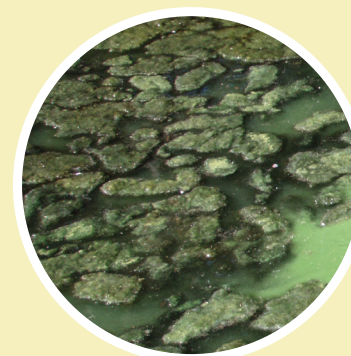
LOOK OUT FOR HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

A **harmful algal bloom (HAB)** is an overgrowth of algae in a water body that could affect water quality and aquatic life. Some HABs produced by bacteria can create toxins that may also harm people, animals, and the local environment.



HOW TO IDENTIFY A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM

Algal blooms can make the water appear green, blue, brown, gold, or red.



Seeing colors, scum, mats, foam, or paint-like streaks in the water or clumps on the shore may indicate a bloom. However, only professional water testing can confirm if HABs and toxins are present. States often have monitoring programs for this purpose.



EXPOSED?

Shower immediately.
See a doctor or vet if
symptoms occur.

SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE

Vary depending on how the person or animal was exposed, and whether the HAB is in salt or fresh water.



Ear, eye, nose,
skin, and throat
irritation, and
headache



Paralysis,
respiratory
illness, and
seizures



Abdominal pain,
diarrhea, liver and
kidney damage, and
vomiting



Drooling, diarrhea,
low energy, not
eating, stumbling,
tremors, and
vomiting

WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

Stay away from the water when a suspected HAB is present.



DON'T
Play with scum
or mats on
the shore



DON'T
Let animals
drink water, eat
algae, or swim



DON'T
Swim



DON'T
Fish or wade



DON'T
Boat or kayak

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT POSSIBLE
HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS:

(844) 729-6466 | <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

CA HABS PORTAL

