

# LOOK OUT FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



Knowing what blue-green algae looks like can help protect you, your family, and pets while enjoying the outdoors in Nova Scotia.



## What are blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, are naturally found in fresh water bodies like lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. They thrive in warm water and can be harmful to people and fatal for pets.

## What to look for:



Algae blooms can look like fine grass clippings in the water, spilled paint, pea soup or sometimes like a thick scum on the surface.

Algae mats can look like clumps of vegetation, and can appear black, brown, or dark green in the water. On the shoreline they may appear brown or grey.

## Be Alert!

When visiting a lake, river, stream, or pond, always scan the water and shoreline before entering the water or letting children or pets play in it.

Pets may be attracted to the smell of algae mats. Do not allow pets to play with or eat algae mats. It could be fatal for pets.

## Be Safe!

If your pet comes into contact with blue-green algae, contact a vet immediately.

You can check the Department of Environment and Climate Change's website and social media for updates on where blue-green algae has been reported.