

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

