

DOs AND DON'Ts OF ALGAL BLOOMS

Algae is a good thing, but too much of it has the potential to become a bad thing.

Although most algal blooms are not harmful, there are some that are a type of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) that has the ability to produce toxins. These are called harmful algal blooms (HABs). It is not possible to know if an algal bloom is harmful just by looking at it. Additionally, toxins can be present even when an algal bloom is not visible. Protect yourself and your pets from potentially harmful algal blooms.

Harmful algal blooms can cause adverse health effects for both humans and their pets. They can cause illnesses such as sore throat, ear and nose irritation, rashes, diarrhea, headaches, nausea, vomiting, allergic reactions, and respiratory problems. They can be lethal to pets.

The DOs and DON'Ts of Harmful Algal Blooms

DOs

- DO look for beach postings and water quality postings before swimming.
- DO avoid swallowing lake water.
- DO rinse yourself and your pet immediately if there is contact with algae affected waters.
- DO get medical treatment right away if you think you, your children or pet might be ill from exposure to algal toxins. Also, notify the Pilgrim Village Beach Director.

DON'Ts

- DON'T swim, wade, boat or play at the shoreline of bodies of water that:
 - smell bad
 - look discolored (e.g.: blue-green, brownish-red, resemble green paint or pea soup)
 - have foam, scum, streaks or mats of algae on the surface
 - contain dead fish or other dead animals
- DON'T let pets swim or drink from algae affected waters.
- DON'T let pets lick algae off their fur.

When in doubt, it's best to stay out!

To learn more go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/general.html>