

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

When in doubt, stay out!



Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, live in water bodies. While most are harmless, some produce toxins harmful to humans, pets, and livestock. Identifying toxic algae is challenging; caution is key around potentially contaminated water.

Recognizing Algal Blooms

When you encounter these distinctive features and understand the seasonal patterns, you'll be better equipped to stay safe while enjoying the water.

Appearance

Blue-green algal blooms typically manifest as a green film on the water's surface, resembling spilled paint. They can also appear brown, blue, or red.

Seasonality

These blooms are most common during the summer and fall months.

Responding to a Bloom

What to do if you think you have found a bloom

**To report an algal bloom,
call 509.332.6752**

Report It

Notify your local health jurisdiction about the bloom's location.

Stay Safe

Keep yourself, children, pets, and livestock out of the water.

Symptoms of Toxic Algae Poisoning

If you or your pets experience any of the following symptoms, seek immediate medical or veterinary attention.

- Lethargy
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Skin Rash
- Muscle Cramping
- Muscle Twitching



For more information,
scan the QR code or visit
[WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org](https://www.whitmancountypublichealth.org)



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