



Blue-Green Algae: What You Should Know

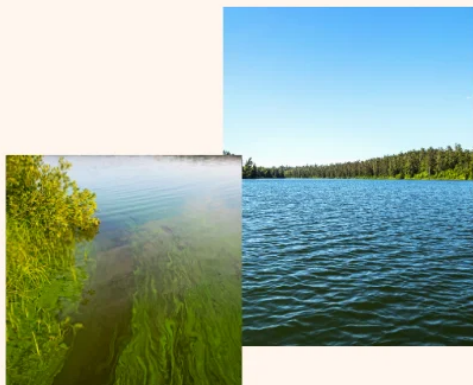
Blue-green algae can be found in Wisconsin lakes and rivers. Some blooms can make people and animals sick.

When in doubt, stay out!

What are blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae are bacteria called cyanobacteria that live in water. They can form blooms that look like:

- Green or blue-green paint on the water
- Scum, mats, or streaks
- May look reddish or brown in color



Why is this important?

Some blooms make toxins that can cause harm. Touching blooms, swallowing water, or breathing in spray can cause:

- Skin rashes
- Stomach cramps
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing

What should I do?

- Avoid water that looks scummy, discolored, or has a strong odor
- Do not touch, swim, wade, or let pets enter water with a bloom
- Do not drink lake or river water
- Check beach advisories from Wisconsin DNR or your local health department

Need Help? Call Poison Help 1-800-222-1222