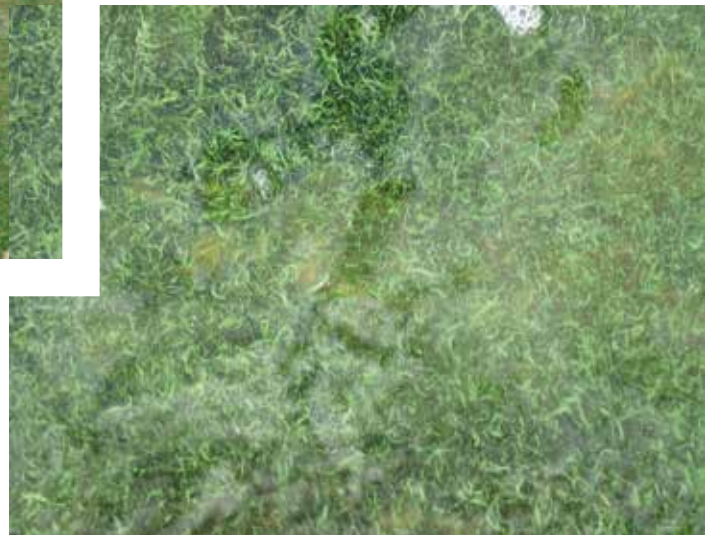


# Blue-green Algal Bloom

## Precautions



*Blue-green algal blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to people, pets and livestock.*



*Algal blooms will form floating clumps or scums, sometimes making the water look like thick pea soup or paint, and may have a strong, unpleasant odour.*

*It's impossible to know if toxins are present in the water without testing.*

Please take the following precautions to reduce exposure to algal blooms and their toxins:

- Don't use water from small, private surface water systems (ex: cottage with a water intake from the lake) to make infant formula during the summer months. Use a safe alternative, such as bottled water.
- When algal blooms are present:
  - Avoid swimming or other contact with the water.
  - Don't use water from small, private surface water systems to drink, prepare food, and make ice or for showering, bathing and other personal hygiene needs.
  - Keep pets and livestock out of the water.
  - Avoid consuming the internal organs of fish or fish that appear unhealthy.

Symptoms of algal toxin exposure may include: nausea, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, skin/eye irritation, fever, muscle or joint pain, respiratory symptoms, allergic reactions, and occasionally other more severe health effects.

If you have symptoms that may be related to algal toxins, see your health care provider. Contact **Health Links – Info Santé** at **204-788-8200** (toll free at **1-888-315-9257**) if you are concerned about health effects.

For more information on algal blooms, current beach conditions and advisories, or to report an algal bloom: visit [manitoba.ca/beaches](http://manitoba.ca/beaches) or call **204-945-0002**.

For more information on algal toxins in drinking water, visit [manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://manitoba.ca/drinkingwater).