

HOW TO REPORT

Visit:

mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html to learn more about HABs and view the HAB Incident Reports Map of where HABs are reported in California.



Visit this website to report a suspected bloom through the on-line report form. Look for the *Report a Bloom* link. The report will be investigated by Water Board staff.

You will be asked:

- Location and contact information
- Algal Bloom information and any associated water quality data
- HAB-related human, wildlife, or pet illness information
- Photos of suspected HABs

Call: 1 (916) 341-5357

toll free: 1 (844) 729-6466

Email:

CyanoHAB.Reports@waterboards.ca.gov

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Sometimes the harmful algal blooms (HAB) are easily visible, forming a "scum" or discoloration on the water surface. Other times, it is less visible, floating beneath the surface or attached at the bottom of a water body

It can be difficult to visually determine if toxin producing species are present in a mat.

Mats can be many different colors ranging from bright green, dark green, blue-green, orange, brown, maroon and more.

KNOW THE SIGNAGE

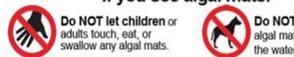
CHECK FOR ALGAE

Toxic algal mats may be present in this water

Mats can be attached to the bottom, detached and floating, or washed up on shore



If you see algal mats:



TOXIC ALGAE ALERT

Toxic algal mats ARE present in this water

Mats can be attached to the bottom, detached and floating, or washed up on shore



Call your doctor or veterinarian immediately if you or your pet get sick after contacting or ingesting algae. For more information on toxic algae visit mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs For local information, contact: Date posted:

General Awareness signage

Confirmed presence of potentially toxic algal mats

WHAT I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HARMFUL ALGAL MATS



FAQ

What are toxic algal mats?

While harmful algal blooms (HABs) are caused by algae or cyanobacteria that grow suspended in the water column, some algae grow attached to the bottom and can form algal mats. Some species can produce toxins, and if present, can pose a risk to humans and pets.

Where do algal mats grow?

Mats can grow in most waterbodies including freshwater or saltwater streams and lakes. Mats grow attached to sediment, plants or other objects submerged in a water body. Water can appear clear when mats grow. Mats can detach and float to the surface of the water. Once at the surface, winds and current can transport the mats to other locations and may also be stranded on the shore. Therefore, floating or stranded mats can be present, even if no attached mats are visible.

Toxins in algal mats

Not all algae produce toxins and many different species can grow within an algal mat. Only lab analyses can determine if toxins are present within a mat. Recreational health risks involve the incidental ingestion of mat material. Children and pets are especially at risk. Treatment by boiling or direct filtration will not remove toxins from the water.

HEALTHY WATER HABITS

For Harmful
Algal Blooms
(HAB)

- Keep an eye on children and pets.
- DO NOT let kids play with or handle mat material.
- DO NOT let pets drink the water, eat scum, foam or algae, or swim in the water.
- Avoid areas where you see mat material.
- If you think a HAB is present, reduce potential for inhalation of sprays or mists and avoid water or mat ingestion.
- DO NOT drink the water or use it for cooking, even if filtered by camping water purification system or boiled.
- Wash yourself, your family, and your pets with clean water after contact. Ensure dogs do not lick any algal mat material off fur.
- If you catch fish, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking. Avoid eating shellfish if you think a HAB is present.



Visuals

Comprehensive
Visual Guide



1. Mats growing on the river bed of a clear flowing stream.
2. Detached potentially toxic mat material floating at the surface of a swimming hole in a river.
3. Algal mats growing in a slow-flowing shallow pool in a river.
4. Underwater photograph of algal mats growing on a submerged log.