



Blue-Green Algae Blooms			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Appearance	The water appears cloudy, but you can still see through it Particle density can vary greatly in the water column	The water colour appears changed due to increased number of cyanobacteria Algae may be in clusters or balls or flakes in the water, like a pea puree	This is a dense bloom; it may resemble a paint spill. Accumulated cyanobacteria on the surface of the water may form a scum. Algae is easily swept by the wind and deposited near the shore
	Swimming Precautions	Do not swim in any bloom which obscures your view into the water. Even if it is not blue-green algae, it is unsafe to swim or to allow children to play in any dense algal bloom, since you cannot see into the water. Wait until the bloom has subsided and the water is clear.	
Health effects are not expected at this stage.		Sensitive individuals may develop mild symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation	Sensitive individuals may develop mild symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation
Drinking Water Precautions	Health effects are not expected at this stage.	Ingestion of water in this category may result in a range of health effects.	Ingestion of water in this category will likely result in a range of health effects
	Do not use the water from a Category 2 or 3 bloom for drinking, cooking or other consumption. Do not let pets or livestock consume the water. Be observant of when the water has cleared. If you treat surface water for cooking or consumption, wait <i>at least</i> a week after the bloom has subsided before resuming normal use of the treated water. The toxin is naturally reduced by dilution, degradation by other bacteria in the water, and sunlight.		
Assess your water supply if you are in an area where there are frequent algae blooms. Since there is no confirmed domestic water treatment available yet, consider a drilled well, or a dug well far from shore.			