



Know it. Avoid it. Report it. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Know it.

Most algae are harmless and are an important part of the food web. However, some species of algae, like blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), can form blooms on surface waters and produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. See images below for HAB examples and common characteristics.

Avoid it.

Avoid swimming, boating, fishing or other contact with water that looks like it may have a bloom. Never drink, prepare food with, or consume untreated surface water, even if there is no bloom. If you are on a public water supply, your supplier is required to treat, disinfect, and monitor water for consumers.

Report it.

If you think you see a suspicious bloom, please report it to NYS DEC or NYS DOH. See other side for information on how to report and useful contacts and resources for Skaneateles Watershed Residents.

Toxic Harmful Algal Blooms - May look like the following:



Bright green or like pea soup.
Floating green dots or globs.



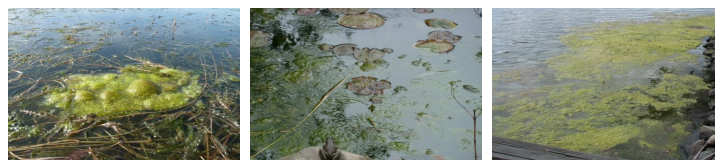
Parallel, usually green, streaks.
Blooms often along shorelines.

Non-toxic Green Algal Blooms

Some green algae blooms can look like a HAB, but do not produce toxins. See examples below for what a non-toxic bloom might look like:



Blue, green, or white spilled paint.



Bubbling scum, floating rafts on the water may be entangled with other plant material. May look hairy, stringy, like a tumbleweed in the water, or like wet fabric on rocks, plants or water.

Reporting HABs

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Call DEC at 518-402-8179 or fill out a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form (on.ny.gov/hab) and submit it with any pictures to HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov

NYS Department of Health (DOH)

Report suspicious bloom and any symptoms to NYS DOH at harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov or your local health dept.

Skaneateles Watershed County Health Departments

Onondaga - (315) 435-6623 Cayuga - (315) 253-1405
Cortland - (607) 753-5035

HABs Notifications and Alerts in Skaneateles

In the event of a harmful algal bloom on Skaneateles Lake, public notification will be made through the **Onondaga County Health Department** and posted on ongov.net/health. Information regarding health impacts of HAB toxins can be found at health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae

Onondaga County Emergency Management

Will coordinate distribution of potable water for Onondaga County residents in event of a HAB on Skaneateles Lake.
www.ongov.net/em

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

State-wide HAB Notifications are updated weekly at:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html

Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

Water quality education programming, workshops, resources
(315) 424-9485 | ctm78@cornell.edu | cceonondaga.org

City of Syracuse Water Department

Bi-weekly posting of Skaneateles lake data, water quality reports, watershed rules and regulations available at:
www.syracuse.ny.us/Water_Department.aspx

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

Best practices for water quality for homeowners/landowners

- Onondaga County: www.ocswcd.org

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program:

www.ocswcd.org/slwap.html

- Cayuga County: www.cayugaswcd.org

- Cortland County: www.cortlandswcd.org

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