



# Harmful Algal Blooms

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Report a suspected **harmful algal bloom** by calling the DEP Hotline at **1-877-WARNDEP** (927-6337) or by using the **WARN NJDEP mobile app**. Download it at [www.nj.gov/dep/warmdep.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/warmdep.htm) Visit the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring website: [www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfm)

**Harmful Algal Blooms**

**What are they?**

- Freshwater harmful algal blooms in rivers, streams or lakes are caused by cyanobacteria.
- Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are not true algae.
- May form dense blooms under suitable environmental conditions: elevated temperatures, high levels of nutrients and calm water.
- Can produce toxins that are dangerous for humans, pets, livestock and wildlife.
- Toxins are referred to as cyanotoxins.
- Blooms not producing toxins can cause allergic reactions or skin irritation.

**What do they look like?**

- May look like blue or green spilled paint, pea soup or parallel streaks
- Contact or ingestion may cause illness - **Avoid it & Report it!**

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