

# Supplementary Information



## Welcome to the freshwater algae site

The purpose of this site is to provide toxin data related to cyanobacteria blooms in Washington lakes, ponds and streams. Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) uses this site to share the data from their ongoing freshwater algae monitoring program.

Cyanobacteria (or blue-green algae) can produce toxins at levels that are harmful to humans, pets, domestic animals, and wildlife. There is no way to detect toxins in an algae bloom except through laboratory analysis. This website provides access to Ecology's results.

### Find your lake

Use our [database](#) to locate a lake and find out the most recent testing.  
Or [find your lake >](#)



### Report a bloom

If you think that your lake has an algae bloom and you want to have the algae identified: [Report a bloom](#).



### See lakes with algae bloom

Examples of local lakes experiencing algae blooms.  
[View our gallery and descriptions](#).



### Health risks

Learn about the potential health risks to people and pets exposed to algae blooms through swimming or consuming the water.



### Did you know?

Most cyanobacterial blooms occur during warm summer and early fall months. However, toxic blooms can also occur during the colder winter months.



### News and announcements

July 21, 2012 - [wenatcheeworld.com](#)  
[Officials post warnings to avoid toxic algae bloom](#)

March 28, 2012 - NPR  
[Battling 'Red Tide,' Scientists Map Toxic Algae To Prevent Shellfish Poisoning](#)

August 20, 2011 - [seattletimes.com](#)  
[Algae bloom pops up at Potholes Reservoir in Eastern Washington](#)

July 20, 2011 - [seattletimes.com](#)  
[Heat wave fosters toxic algae in touristy lakes](#)



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Figure S1. Washington State Toxic Algae website home page [S1].

**Animal Safety Alert**

# T O X I C    Blue-Green Algae




**When in Doubt... Stay Out!**

**If you see a bloom, do not let your pet in the water.**

- Toxic algal blooms can poison animals, wildlife, and people.
- Toxic blooms can be different colors: green, blue, red, or brown.
- Blooms appear as foam, scum, or streaks on the surface of water.
- Look for blooms in lakes, ponds, and rivers.



**If your pets go in the water:**

- Do not let them lick their fur.
- Rinse them with clean water.
- Rinse your hands and any exposed skin.

**Dogs can have severe signs within minutes to hours.**

Look for these signs:

- Low energy
- Not eating
- Vomiting
- Stumbling
- Seizures
- Weakness
- Drooling
- Diarrhea
- Paralysis
- Tremors

**If your pet becomes ill - Call your veterinarian immediately:**

Report animal poisonings to your local health department, or the WA Dept of Health Ph: 360-236-3330 [www.doh.wa.gov/algae](http://www.doh.wa.gov/algae)

 Washington State Department of Health  
DOH 332-114 June 2012

**Figure S2.** Animal safety alert poster.

## Reference

- S1. Washington State Toxic Algae, Freshwater Algae Bloom Monitoring Program. Available online: <http://www.NWToxicalgae.org> (accessed on 9 February 2015).