

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR PETS FROM BLUE GREEN ALGAE

Periodically, large amounts of blue-green algae grow – or “bloom” on the Caloosahatchee River. Certain types can release toxins, or poisons, into the water. At these times you will see that the water is discolored or has green scum floating on the surface. At times a bloom may not be noticeable but toxins may still persist at low levels.

For your protection, Lee County recommends these precautions:

- 1. Don't swim, water ski, or boat in areas where the water is discolored, or where you see foam, scum or mats of algae on the water.**
- 2. If you do swim in water with visible blue green algae, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.**
- 3. People with chronic liver disease and pregnant women may be at increased risk.**
- 4. Don't let pets or livestock swim in or drink from areas where water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water.**
- 5. If pets (especially dogs) swim in scummy water, rinse them off immediately – do not let them lick the algae (and toxin) off their fur.**
- 6. Healthy, active fish caught in the river are safe to eat. Do not eat dead or dying fish.**
- 7. Do not eat shellfish (clams, mussels, etc.) harvested from the river.**



For further information, please call The Aquatic Toxin Hotline at 1-888-232-8635