

# blue green algae?

## dodge it

**Stay clear of living things near the shoreline & in the water like**

**mosquitoes & algae blooms.**

## Enjoy Florida's waters—know when to swim it, shore it or dodge it.

**Blue green algae are organisms naturally found in all types of water—large concentrations are called blooms.** Blooms can form a thick mat that can be foamy, scummy and give off a bad odor.

**Don't swallow, swim, wade, use personal watercrafts, water ski or boat in waters where there are blooms.**

**Blooms can cause ear, eye and skin reactions, and hay fever and flu-like symptoms [diarrhea].** Wash your skin and clothing with soap and water if you touch blooms, or discolored or smelly water. See your doctor if you have symptoms.

**Waters where there are blooms are not safe for animals.**

**Don't cook or clean dishes with water contaminated by blooms.** Boiling water will not eliminate chemicals.

**Fillets from healthy fish caught in freshwater lakes experiencing blooms are safe to eat.** The Florida Department of Health recommends that fish are not harvested from areas near or in the bloom.

