



Onondaga County Health Department

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Blue-Green Algae Update for Homes With Private Intakes on Skaneateles Lake

Onondaga County Health Department reminds residents who draw water directly from Skaneateles Lake through near-shore PRIVATE INTAKES to take the following precautions:

- DO NOT USE the water for potable purposes such as drinking, making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, preparing food, washing dishes, or for pets.
- Do not use the water for bathing when algae blooms are present near your water intake

To be clear, these recommendations apply only to residents with private intakes; in-home treatments such as boiling, ultraviolet radiation (UV), and water filtration units do not remove the toxins associated with harmful algal blooms.

The Health Department recommends taking the following additional precautions:

- Do not swim, wade, or fish near algae blooms or surface scums
- Do not let dogs wade, drink the water, or walk on algae-contaminated shoreline debris
- Rinse yourself and pets with clean water if exposed to algae
- Anyone who experiences skin or eye irritation or gastrointestinal illness should contact their health care provider.

Learn more about blue-green algae:

- Blue-Green Algae and Health: www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/
- Dogs and Algae Blooms: www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/habspets.pdf
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html