

# ALGAE or SEWAGE?

## HELPING YOU TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE

ALGAE - easily mistaken for sewage - regularly affects our shores during warmer weather.

A creamy-brown coloured foamy slick of the common algae *Phaeocystis* can be carried inshore by tides and winds. And when washed up the algae is often wrongly identified as sewage.

Although visually unpleasant *Phaeocystis* is not toxic.

Some examples of *Phaeocystis* are shown here.



The Environment Agency carries out regular monitoring of bathing waters between May and October and is working towards controlling and reducing aquatic pollution.

If you are concerned that what you see is not algae and is some other kind of pollution please 'phone the Environment Agency's free 24-hour emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60



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