Floating Pollen

In spring and early summer, trees like pine and birch, along with grasses, release large amounts of pollen as part of their natural reproductive cycle. These tiny, lightweight grains travel easily on the wind and often settle on surfaces like cars, decks—**and water.**

Spotting Pollen on Water

- A **yellow film** or **slick** on the surface, sometimes mistaken for algae
- **Clumps** or **streaks** in calm areas like coves
- **Yellow stains** on rocks, docks, or boats after rain

Pollen or Potentially Harmful Blue Green Algae?

Floating Pollen

- Yellowish, dusty
- Collects in corners
- Sits on surface
- No odour
- Seasonal (May-June)
- Generally harmless, but may cause reactions for those allergic

Blue Green Algae

- Typically green or bluish, paint-like
- Can be slimy or smelly
- Often in warm, still, shallow water
- Can be toxic to people & pets

If in doubt, submit a report online or call the Spills Action Centre at 1-866-663-8477 (24/7).

What You Need to Know

Pollen floating on water is generally harmless to people, pets, and aquatic life, unless there are existing allergies.

While it may look unusual, floating pollen is a **natural and temporary occurrence**.

If you **suspect an algal bloom**, report online or call the Spills Action Centre at 1-866-663-8477.

For the most recent water monitoring results in Severn Sound, visit: https://www.severnsound.ca/resources/monitoring-results/

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