

## Know the Difference! Types of buildup in stormwater ponds

Type	Cause	Appearance	Impact	Harmful
<b>Pollen</b>	Flowering plants expel pollen as part of their reproduction and fertilization process.	Green/yellow powder-like grains.	When found in large quantities, pollen will create a floating film atop bodies of water.	No. Pollen will be naturally consumed by organisms in the body of water.
<b>Excessive Algae</b>	Ecological area overloaded with nutrients like fertilizer.	Various. Green, brown, even red! Thick, slimy, plant-based.	When large amounts of algae dies, oxygen levels drop in the water where the algae had grown.	Yes. Low oxygen levels are hazardous to fish and other organisms.
<b>Muddy Water</b>	Erosion of bare soils being disturbed by moving water (drainage).	Opaque, brown water.	Over time soil sediments in the water can create blockages in the storm drainage network and watercourses.	Yes. Sediments can cause blockages in the storm drainage network and watercourses.
<b>Rainbow Sheens (Hydrocarbons and Oils)</b>	Breakdown of leaves, algae and other organic material.	When disturbed, appear to be shattered, irregular fragments. Like thin glass.	Hydrocarbons and oils are toxic to aquatic organisms.	No, IF shattered fragments don't reform.  Yes, IF disturbed and fragments reform into larger rainbow sheen, then. If sheen reforms, it is likely a man-made oil. Report to 3-1-1.
<b>Foams</b>	A by-product of soap entering into a	Bright white or artificially coloured	Detergents and foams may be	Only need to report artificial foams and

<p><b>Foams (continued)</b></p>	<p>watercourse.</p>	<p>bubbles. Will consist of both small and large bubbles.</p>	<p>hazardous to aquatic organisms.</p>	<p>detergents to 3-1-1.</p>
<p><b>Natural Foams</b></p>	<p>When naturally dissolved organic materials are vigorously mixed by moving water. Bubbles are created and settle in an area where water movement is less vigorous.</p>	<p>Off-white or brown tinted, uniformly small bubbles.</p>	<p>Natural foams are harmless to aquatic organisms.</p>	<p>No, foams created from leaves and other vegetation are not harmful to aquatic life.</p>
<p><b>Coloured slimes</b></p>	<p>Biological activity from bacteria or algae</p>	<p>Various. Green, orange, brown, black.</p>	<p>Concrete outfalls and pipes may appear discoloured.</p>	<p>Possibly. Report slimes to 3-1-1 for City staff determine if there are pollutants in the water.</p>