



# Algae cover

**What's the issue?** Excessive amounts of algae are a sign of nutrient enrichment. These nutrients can be from a number of sources but the algal growth clogs up the bed and water column and draws oxygen out of the water as it decays. Extreme amounts of algae

## Taking the measurement



**Who?** Any observer without any training, who is passing a river or loch can make a useful measurement.



**Your safety** Remember DO NOT go alongside the river or loch if: you can't swim, the water is too deep or fast moving, or if you are alone.



**How long does it take?** 2 minutes



**Equipment needed** No specialist equipment needed.



**How to measure** Use the descriptive scale below to categorise the water level by looking at the extent of green algae on the bed, surface and in the water column.



**Tips** It would be a great help to include an image of the algae as your uploaded photograph to the website. Use the comments box to tell us if it mainly covered the bed, was finely dispersed in the water, or strands floating on the water surface.

## Definitions



None

Rare

Common

Abundant

Dominant