



Water safety

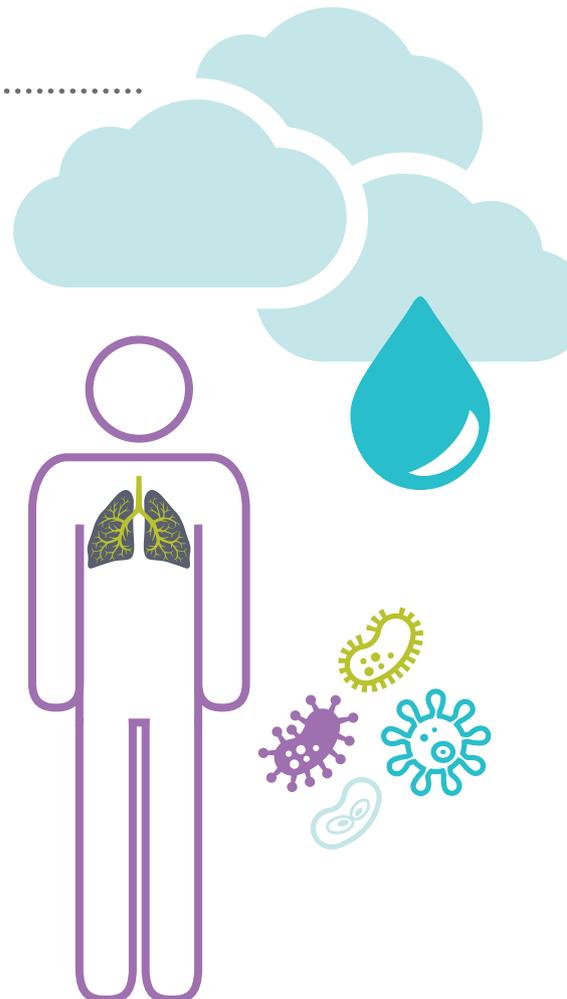
Legionella bacteria is found naturally in fresh water sources. Legionella can be found in domestic water systems too, if the conditions are right for it to multiply (the temperature and level of nutrients) and if systems are not regularly checked and controlled. The bacteria can be harmful, causing Legionnaires' Disease (a form of pneumonia) and other less serious illnesses.

Here you'll find all you need to know about:

- The risks of Legionella in your home
- How we will help keep your home safe
- What you can do.

What are the risks?

- Inhalation or ingestion of Legionella bacteria can cause a form of pneumonia called Legionnaires' Disease, as well as other less serious illnesses
- People catch Legionnaires' Disease by inhaling mist or vapour (small droplets of water in the air) which contains the bacteria
- There's 200 - 400 cases of Legionnaires' Disease reported in the UK each year
- It's very rare for people to catch Legionnaires' Disease from drinking water and even less common for the disease to be passed from person to person.

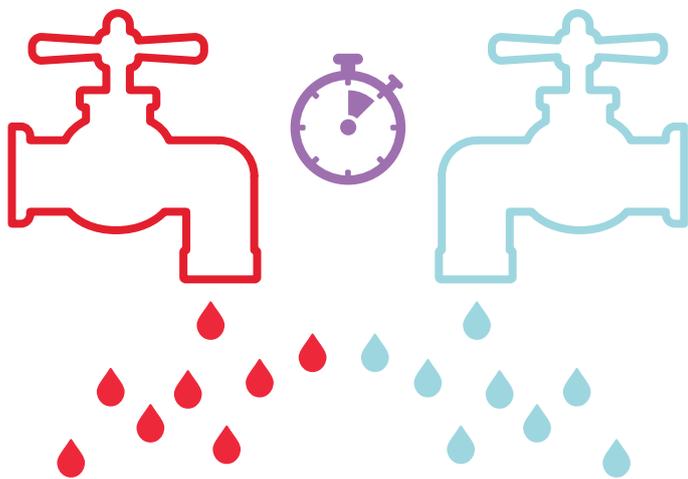


What we will do to keep your home safe

- As your landlord, we have a duty to make sure that the risk of your exposure to Legionella is properly assessed and minimised
- We'll carry out an initial risk assessment of communal water systems in our sheltered and supported schemes and review the assessment every two years. All individual, residential homes (flats and houses) will be assessed on a rolling programme and reviewed when necessary.



What you can do to help



- When you first move into your home, run the bath and sink taps continuously for at least five minutes. This will flush through any bacteria
- If your shower has not been used for a week or more, run the water from both hot and cold supplies for two minutes. To make sure no spray escapes from the showerhead, run it through a bucket of water or full bath
- If your shower has not been used for two weeks or more, disinfect the showerhead. You could use any solution designed for cleaning baby feeding bottles to do this (such as Milton). Showerheads should be disinfected about four times a year
- If you've been away and your home has been empty for a while, flush the whole water system for two minutes or more. First flush your toilet, then let all taps run for two minutes or more to let both hot and cold water pass through. Next, flush the shower through as described above
- Don't interfere with the settings on your boiler or hot water cylinder. The hot water should be set so that it's heated up to 60°C. Legionella thrive at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C.

You should get in touch with us if:

- The boiler or hot water cylinder aren't working properly, especially if the water is not coming out of the taps at a high enough temperature (that means, if it's not running at about 50°C after it has been on for at least a minute)
- The cold water is still running warm even after you've run off any water which may have accumulated in the pipes. Your cold water should not go above 20°C
- You notice any debris or discolouration in the water.

