



Legionnaires' Disease

Customer Guidance

Domestic hot and cold water systems can provide an environment where Legionella bacteria can grow. This can cause Legionnaires' Disease which is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by inhalation of small droplets of contaminated water containing Legionella bacteria. This advice sheet gives tips for residents of rented domestic accommodation such as houses, bungalows and flats in small blocks.

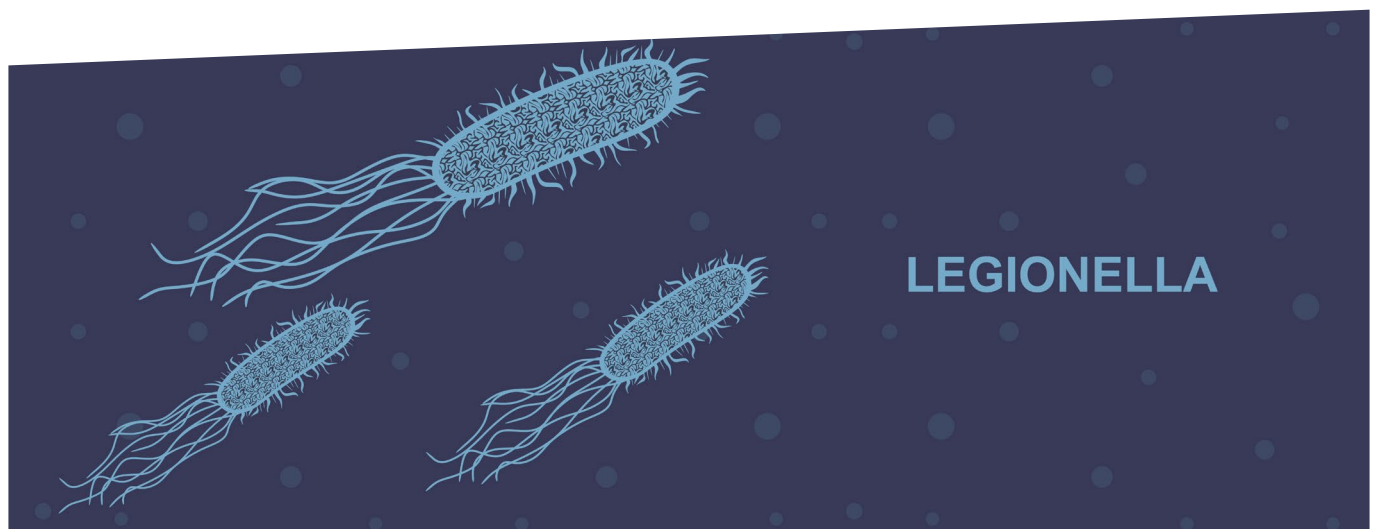
It is important to make sure that the hot water in the system is kept hot, cold water is kept cold, and the water is kept circulated.



It is important that you

- Tell us if the boiler or hot water tank are not working properly, particularly if the water is not coming out of the taps at a sufficiently high temperature. It should come out at a temperature of 50°C after it has run for a minute at the latest
- Do not interfere with the settings on your boiler or hot water system. The hot water should be set so that the water is heated up to 60°C
- Tell us if the cold water is still running warm after you have initially run off any water which may have accumulated in the pipes. It should not be above 20°C
- Tell us if there are any problems, debris or discolouration in the water

- Flush through little used outlets for two minutes at least once a week. Where showers or spray taps are fitted
- If they are used only occasionally then flush them through by running them for at least 2 minutes once a week. Keep out of the way whilst this is being done as far as possible
- Clean the shower head and spray tap (including any removable inserts and hoses) periodically, descale and disinfect it. This should be done every three months
- If you are going on holiday it is best to leave your shower hose hanging down to stop water stagnating in the bend of the hose and always run all outlets for a couple of minutes before use when you return from a break away.

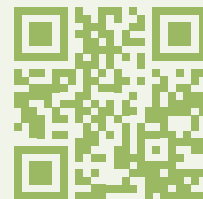


How to Contact Us

We welcome your feedback – there are many ways to let us know what you think.

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