



What can the Co-operative do to reduce the risk?

- If the water to your home is not provided by direct mains water we will inspect, maintain and test your water storage tank to minimise the risk of Legionella;
- We will ensure that our empty homes receive a full cleaning and flushing of the water system prior to the keys being handed to the new tenant.

You can reduce the risk of Legionella by;

- Run every tap (including garden taps), flush the toilet and run the shower at least once per week;
- Clean and disinfect your tap outlets and shower head every 6 months;
- If you go on holiday or your home is empty for a week or longer please make sure that all your taps and showers are run and your toilets are flushed on your return;
- Ensure your hot water is hot. The heating engineer will check the hot water temperature at the annual gas service;
- Contact our Maintenance Team if you notice any change in the water quality in your house, or have any issues with your boiler.

We always welcome your views and comments about improving our service.

If you would like this leaflet in another format, for example in large print or on tape, or in another language, please contact reception.

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LEGIONELLA

INFORMATION SHEET 31



Good water hygiene within the home is important as not only can it prevent simple bacteria from forming but it can also prevent more serious bacteria such as Legionella.

What is Legionella disease?

- Legionella is a bacteria naturally occurring in water environments that causes Legionellosis or Legionella disease which is a severe form of pneumonia.
- Legionella bacteria may be formed where stored water is allowed to lie unused over a period of time and reach temperature between 20 oC and 40 oC. It does not appear to multiply below 20oC and will not survive over 60oC.
- Occurrences of Legionella are very uncommon in domestic housing as generally water is being used on a daily basis and is not allowed to lie over a period of time.
- In properties such as those owned by Easthall Park, the risk of Legionnaires disease is rated as low.

How do people get it?

- People catch Legionnaire's disease by inhaling small droplets of water such as from a spray from a shower or sink taps which contain the bacteria.
- Anyone can catch it, but it is more likely to affect those who are susceptible because of age, illness, low immunity, smoking etc.
- You cannot get Legionnaires disease from drinking water itself as it must be inhaled into your respiratory system.