

Our guide to **water safety in your home**

Why is water safety important?

Water systems can pose a risk of contracting Legionnaire's disease, but there are ways to safely prevent it. This leaflet provides information on the possible causes and symptoms of Legionnaire's disease so you can identify and report any concerns to us.

What is Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaire's disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia, which can affect anybody. It is caused by the inhalation of small droplets of water from contaminated sources containing legionella bacteria.

Where is Legionella found?

All hot and cold water systems in residential properties are a potential source for legionella bacteria growth. The main areas of risk are where the bacteria can multiply and increase to dangerous levels and then spread, e.g. in spray from showers and taps, even in dishwasher and washing machine pipes. Conditions ripe for colonisation are where water of between 20°C and 45°C stagnates, and where there is sludge, rust and scale present for the bacteria to feed upon and multiply.

**On average,
there are
approximately
500 reported cases
of Legionnaire's
disease a year**

Who is at risk?

Legionnaire's disease most commonly affects the elderly, or people with chest or lung problems. Not everyone exposed to legionella bacteria becomes ill. Legionnaire's disease is not contagious and you cannot get it from drinking water.

What precautions can I take to help keep safe?



Ensure all taps and outlets are run for **several minutes** on a **weekly** basis until the temperature at the outlet stabilises



Ensure the hot water temperatures remain set to ensure water is between 50°C and 60°C (**MAX 60°C TO AVOID SCALDING!**)



Report any failures to hot water systems to MSV straight away, or if you notice cold water is running warm for over a minute



Ensure showerheads and taps are kept clean and free from scale



Report any redundant pipework to MSV (e.g. supplies to washing machines not used)



Flush through showers and taps for **10 minutes** following a period of non-use (e.g. after a holiday or if a room is not in regular use)

If you have concerns or need to report an issue relating to water safety, please contact us straight away:



Register on our portal, 'My MSV', via our website at www.msvhousing.co.uk



enquiry@msvhousing.co.uk



0161 226 4211

Would you like this leaflet in another format or language?

Please contact us to find out more.

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