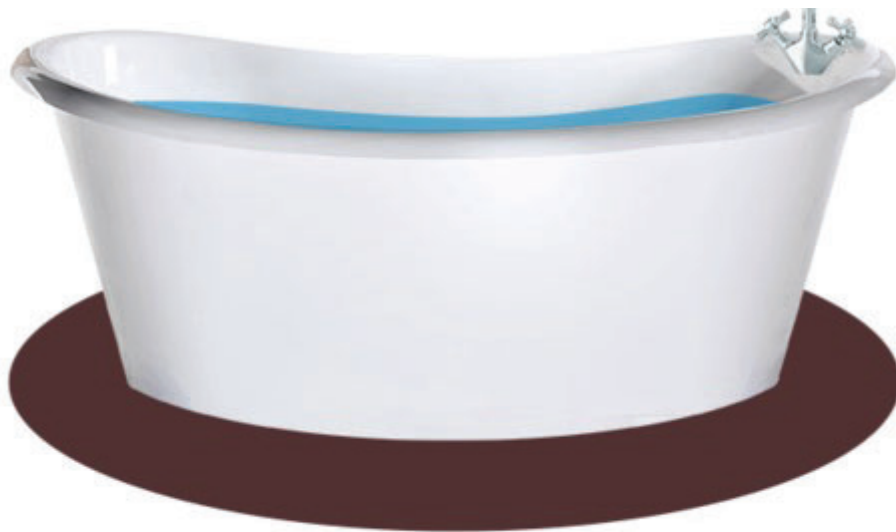


Legionella



If you have any questions about the following information, please call Housing on 0141 342 1810 or email hello@key.org.uk

What is Legionella?

Legionella is a type of bacteria that can be found in water.

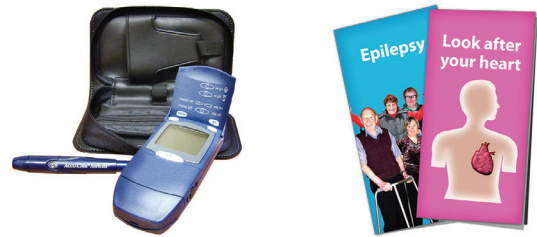
Risks

Catching legionella in your home is rare.



- People who are suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease.
- People who have diabetes, lung and heart disease.

However there are certain people who are most at risk;



- People over 45 years of age.
- Smokers and heavy drinkers.
- Anyone who is often unwell.
- Men more than women.



Certain conditions increase the risk from legionella if:

- The temperature of your stored water is between 20-45°C.
- Breathable water droplets can be dispersed by water outlets.
- Water is stored or re-circulated.
- Deposits such as rust or scale that encourage growth are present.

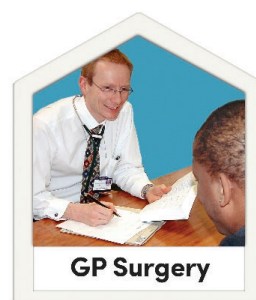
Can I catch Legionella?

Catching Legionella in your home is rare.

Legionella is caused by breathing in small droplets of water (aerosols) in the air that contain the bacteria.

The likelihood of legionella being in your home is low as the majority of our households do not store huge amounts of water.

Symptoms are similar to the flu so see your GP if you are feeling unwell.



Legionella is not infectious and cannot be passed from person to person.

Most incidents of legionella occur from faulty air conditioning systems or cooling towers.



It is very important you contact your Housing Officer if you intend to leave your property for a number of weeks so we can act in accordance with our Legionella Policy.

You can find out more about Legionella by visiting the Health and Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires or by getting in touch with Key.

Minimise the Risk

There are a number of steps you can take to minimise the risk of legionella in your home.

- If your home has been lying empty for at least a week then flush out your water.
- You need to turn the taps and shower on slowly to stop the water coming out fast and splashing.



- You can do this by slowly turning on your taps and shower for at least 2 minutes.



- Your shower head should be cleaned every few months with an anti-bacterial cleaner.
- If you have a hot water tank then make sure the temperature is set to 60°C to kill the bacteria.

What does Key do

- We are removing cold water storage tanks where possible.
- We have a Legionella Policy in place and will act in accordance with this to ensure the likelihood of legionella being present in your home is low.



If you would like to discuss this document then please call Housing on 0141 342 1810 or email hello@key.org.uk.