

Tenant and Leaseholder Service
WATER SAFETY FOR TENANTS



If you have any questions about
Legionnaires' disease or need any advice,
contact us
myhome@thanet.gov.uk
or call 01843 577262

What is Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria.

- It can kill.
- Not everyone exposed to Legionella bacteria becomes ill.
- The symptoms are like the flu.
- You can't catch it from other people.

You can do some simple things to prevent Legionnaires' disease.



How do people get Legionnaires' disease?

You can get it by breathing in tiny droplets of water with the bacteria in it.

The risk is increased if:

- The water temperature in the system is 20-45 °C.
- Breathable water droplets can be created in the air e.g. shower spray.
- Water is stored and/or re-used.
- There are deposits that help bacteria grow, like rust, sludge and scale.

You don't usually get it from drinking water.

The risk of Legionnaires' disease in your home is low.



Who is most at risk?

Anybody can get it, but older people and those with lung conditions are most at risk.

How to prevent Legionnaires' disease

- If you have been away or your water has not been used for a while, run showers and taps for 5 minutes.
- When you flush the shower, try not to make any spray. Take off the shower head or catch the water in a plastic bag and get rid of it carefully.
- Keep all shower heads and taps clean using a suitable cleaning solution.
- Make sure all taps and water outlets are run weekly.
- Flush toilets with the lid down if they haven't been used for a while.
- Drain hose pipes after use and keep out of direct sunlight. Run for a couple of minutes before filling up paddling pools etc.
- Keep hot water in your system at a temperature of 60°C or more (for example, in combi boilers). This will kill the bacteria.



Increasing the water temperature is one way to control Legionella growth. But it could increase the risk of burns. Please take care, especially if you have young children.