



Legionella



Essential information about
legionella in your home



What is Legionnaires disease?

Legionnaire's disease is a pneumonia-like illness that is potentially fatal. It is caused by the inhalation of small droplets of water from contaminated sources containing Legionella bacteria. Everyone is susceptible to infection; however those most commonly affected are the elderly or people with chest or lung problems. Legionnaire's disease is not contagious and you cannot get it from drinking water containing the bacteria.

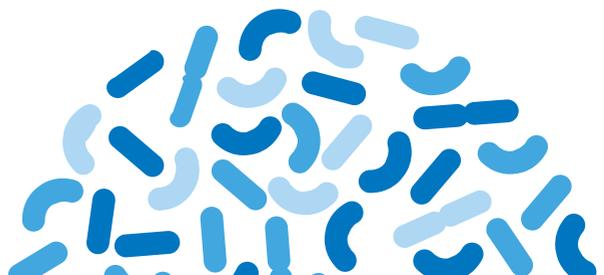
Where is Legionella bacteria found?

Domestic hot and cold water systems can provide an environment where legionella bacteria grow. Water that is allowed to stagnate at temperatures between 20° - 45°C and where there is sludge rust and scale present allows the bacteria to multiply.

What precautions can I take?

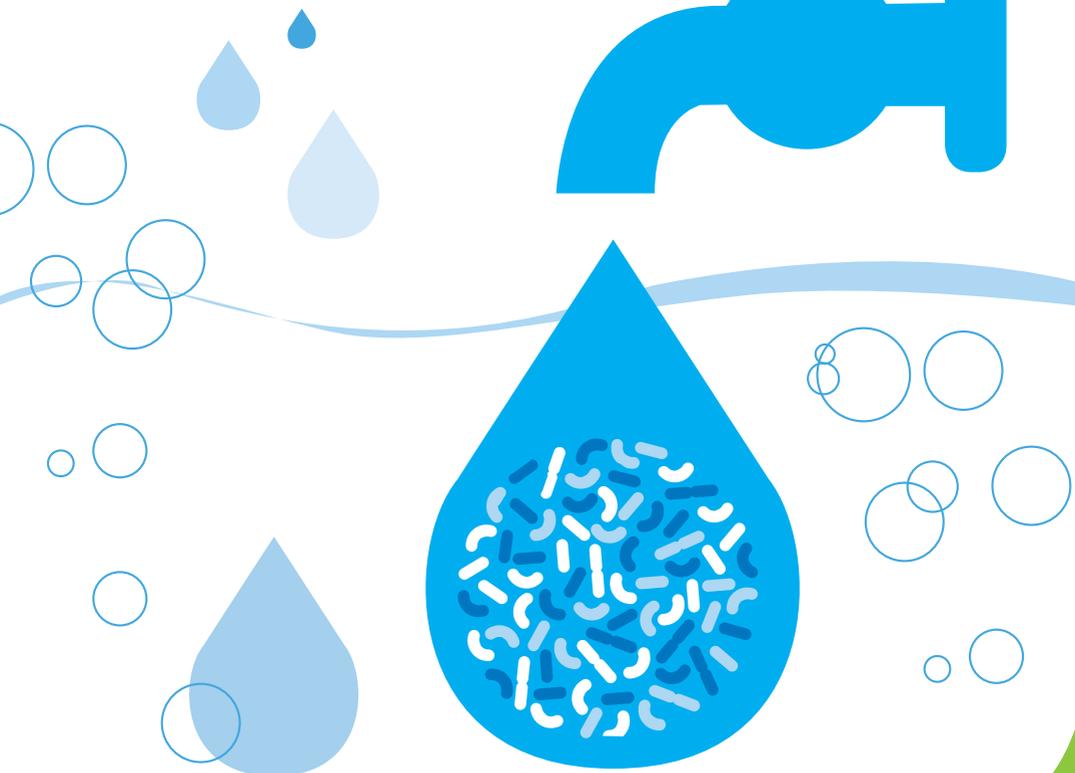
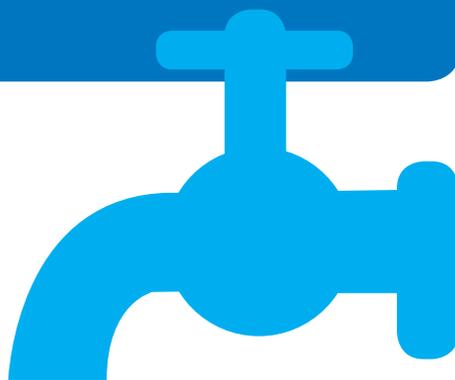
Legionnaires disease is easily preventable by putting in place some simple control measures. The most important things to do are:

- **Run taps and showers for 2 minutes after a period of non use (i.e. after a holiday) to flush through the water**
- **Clean and disinfect all shower heads and taps regularly to keep them free of mould and lime scale**
- **Keep the hot water on your boiler at 60°C**



Contact North Devon Homes, if:

- Your boiler or hot water tank is not working properly, especially if the water is not coming out at a sufficiently high temperature. It should run at a temperature of around 50°C after it has run for a minute
- Your cold water is still running warm after 30 seconds. It should not be above 20°C
- There is any debris or discolouration in the water



If you have any questions or need any further information,
please contact the Customer Care Team on 01271 312500.



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