

## Legionella Control Code of Conduct

The Legionella Control Association's Code of Conduct gives guidance on the standard of service that clients should expect to receive.

To download a copy of the document

visit [www.legionella.com](http://www.legionella.com)

Telephone 0161 877 0586  
or email [info@legionella.com](mailto:info@legionella.com)



## Tenant's Guide to Water Hygiene

For further information please contact our Property Services Team on:

Address: 43 Walter Road  
Swansea SA1 5PN

Phone: 01792 460192  
Email: [info@fha-wales.com](mailto:info@fha-wales.com)

Family Housing Association (Wales) Ltd  
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**This Leaflet is available  
in different formats.  
Please contact 01792  
460192 for information.**

## Precautions you can take

This leaflet explains some of the precautions you can take to prevent Legionnaires' disease

Legionnaires' disease is a form of Pneumonia. Anybody can catch it, but it is more likely to affect those who are susceptible because of age, illness, immunosuppression (low immunity) or smoking etc.

Most cases have been in people aged between 40 and 70.

There is no evidence to show the disease is contagious and only 200-400 cases of Legionnaires' disease are reported in the UK each year.

This leaflet aims to give you information on what precautions you can take within your home. Please read this leaflet carefully.

Legionnaires' disease does not appear to multiply below 20°C and will not survive above 60°C.

The area of concern is stagnant water stored between 20°C and 40°C



## How do people get it?

People catch Legionnaires' disease by inhaling small droplets of water suspended in the air, which contain the bacteria.

You cannot get Legionnaires' disease from drinking water.

The bacteria have to be in very small droplets like spray from a shower or spray taps.

In domestic properties the risk of Legionnaires' disease is rated as low risk.

This can be kept low by following the guidelines in this leaflet.

## Ways to prevent it

Legionella can be found in most water systems. Below shows how the bacteria can form and grow, and what you can do to make sure it remains at an acceptable level.

Bacteria breeding in stagnant water

Ways to prevent

- If taps in a property are not used for one week or more, each tap should be run or flushed.

## Risk of Legionnaires' disease

- If your property is empty for long periods of time i.e. over two weeks. This maybe due to long hospital admissions, extended holiday periods or any other reason then the hot and cold taps and shower should be flushed and cleaned.
- Shower heads should be flushed out on a regular basis
- Ensure any taps which are not normally used are flushed regularly (i.e. outside toilets and taps)

## Bacteria breeding in lime scale

### Ways to prevent

- Keep tap and shower heads free from lime scale where possible, if not flush or use the outlets regularly.