

Legionella



Catalyst
Housing

Keeping the water in
your home safe

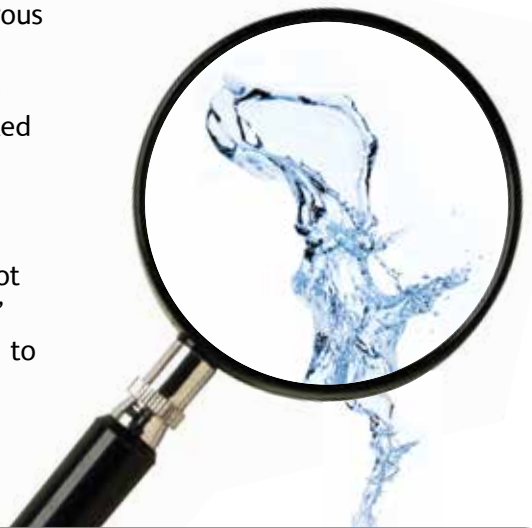
Legionella

Legionella is the name given to a group of bacteria that's found in almost all water sources including streams, rivers and lakes. It can also be found in soil, compost and mains water, and it can sometimes enter domestic water systems.

Is legionella harmful?

Low concentrations are generally not harmful. Legionella is only dangerous if the conditions are right for the bacteria to grow and if you inhale water droplets from a contaminated water system.

The bacteria can cause a number of infections, most of which are not serious. This includes legionnaires' disease which can be fatal in 10% to 12% of cases.



What is Catalyst doing?

We've employed a water hygiene company to check whether legionella is present in any of the water systems in our homes. Where necessary, and in line with legal obligations, we'll regularly monitor and inspect buildings to make sure water systems are clean and the water is safe to use

What you can do

The likelihood of legionella being in your home is very low as most households do not store huge amounts of water. They also use water regularly so it's not standing still in pipes.

Here are some tips you can follow to make sure the water in your home is safe.

Setting the right temperature

Legionella bacteria is more likely to grow between 20°C and 50°C. So where possible set hot water cylinders at 60°C or above. Regular use of cold water should also ensure temperatures stay below 20°C.

De-scale taps and showers

Legionella bacteria can grow and multiply on scale or rust. So de-scale taps and showers every three months or when there is an obvious build-up of scale. The harder the water in your area, the more frequently you should de-scale.

Clean the taps in your bath, basin and sink by brushing the scale off with a nylon brush or wiping them with a diluted bleach solution. You can also use any de-scaling solution that you can buy from hardware shops.

If you have a shower that has a flexible hose, fit it with a “hose retaining ring”. This will stop it falling into bath water and so decrease the risk of scaling.





Use water taps once a week

This helps to make sure you don't have water standing still in pipes. If you've been away for more than a week, you should run all your taps for a few minutes before using the water.

You'll also need to run the water in your shower. Make sure you remove the shower head before doing this so the water doesn't spray and create water droplets. If you can't remove the shower head, cover it with a towel or a plastic bag while you run the water.

Flush away those bacteria

The water in your home is more likely to have legionella if you haven't used it for a while.

So if you've been away for more than a week, here is what you should do:

- Heat up your water system to the normal temperature
- Run every tap for at least five minutes
- Slowly flush the cold taps until the water is really cold

Remember that when flushing taps or other outlets open slowly so you don't splash water or release water droplets in the air.



If you need any of this information in large print, Braille, on audio-tape or explained in your own language, please contact us on the number below.

Arabic

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على أي جزء من هذه المعلومات مطبوعًا بأحرف كبيرة أو بطريقة برايل أو مسجلًا على اسطوانة مدمجة أو شريط صوتي أو مشروحًا باللغة التي تتحدثها، يرجى الاتصال بنا على الرقم الموضح أدناه.

Hindi

अगर आप इस जानकारी के किसी भी हिस्से को ब्रेल, सीडी, ऑडियो टेप में चाहते हैं या अपनी भाषा में समझना चाहते हैं, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए नम्बर पर हमसे सम्पर्क करें।

Portuguese

Se necessitar de parte desta informação em caracteres aumentados, em Braille, em CD, cassete áudio ou apresentada no seu idioma, por favor contacte-nos, através do telefone abaixo indicado.

Somali

Haddaad u baahan tahay warkan afkaaga-hooyo, afka loogu talagalay dadka aan arki karaan – afka faraha ama CD-ga ama ajeladda rekorka nala xirir. Namberkan isticmaal.

Gujarati

જો તમારે કોઈ પણ ભાગની આ માહિતી શ્રેઈલ, સીડી ઉપર, ઑડિયો ટેપ અથવા તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં સમજી શકો તેની જરૂર હોય તો નીચે જણાવેલ નંબર ઉપર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz aby całość lub część tego tekstu były przedstawione większą czcionką, w języku Braille'a, na nośniku CD, na kasecie audio lub zostały przetłumaczone na Twój język ojczysty, prosimy o kontakt pod numerem podanym niżej.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ, ਸੀਡੀ, ਆੱਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਅਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Urdu

ان معلومات کے کسی حصہ کی اگر آپ کو بریل، سی ڈی، آڈیو ٹیپ یا اپنی زبان میں وضاحت کی ضرورت ہو تو، براہ کرم ہم سے نیچے دیے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔

0300 456 2099

**Better Homes.
Better Service.
Better Future.**



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Catalyst is one of the leading housing associations in London and the South East. We aim to be a catalyst for change and improvement wherever we work.



Catalyst Housing Ltd

Ealing Gateway
26–30 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2AU

Call: **0300 456 2099**
(London customers)

Call: **0300 456 2090**
(South east customers)

Visit: www.chg.org.uk

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