

LEGIONELLA PREVENTION INFORMATION



Health & Safety legislation requires RBH to ensure your water systems are free from Legionella bacteria.

The bacteria can cause a form of pneumonia called Legionnaires disease.

- **When you first move into your home, you will need to turn the water back on at the stop tap.**
- **Run the kitchen taps, bath and hand basin taps in the property for at least 5 mins. This will flush through any bacteria.**
- **If you have a shower, a new shower head will be supplied in a bag.**
- **Ensure that your hot water temperature is set to maximum temperature on your boiler. Temperatures above 60°C will kill Legionella bacteria.**
- **Beware of burns and scalding and take extra care if you have children. Legionella can survive in low temperatures but thrive at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C.**
- **If your home has been empty for a while e.g. after a holiday, flush the whole water system for 3 minutes or more e.g. open kitchen taps, bath, wash hand basin, shower and flush toilet.**
- **If your shower head is not used for more than 2 weeks you should disinfect the shower head.**
- **Flush shower as above, then remove the shower head and submerge into water and a disinfectant for at least an hour.**
- **Shower heads should be disinfected at least 4 times a year.**

Legally, it is your landlord's responsibility to take precautions to prevent Legionella being present in the hot or cold water system but tenants and residents also have an important part to play in taking these simple and practical precautions.