

# Equity's guide to Legionnaires Disease



**EQUITY**  
Housing Group

As your landlord **Equity Housing Group** wants you to enjoy your home at all times and we have a legal duty to ensure the property you are in is safe.

One of our obligations is that we have assessed the home you live in is at a low risk of causing Legionnaires Disease to you, visitors and neighbours.

## What is Legionnaires Disease?

The illness comes from microscopic bacteria that can be found naturally in the general environment. Within a sealed water system, certain conditions can increase the likelihood of these bacteria developing.

These are quite specific, and cover water stored at a warm (not hot or cold) temperature, water stored for long periods, and contaminated plumbing services.

By inhaling small droplets of water (aerosols) that contain the bacteria, it is possible for people to develop a form of Pneumonia that in some cases can be fatal.

## Who is susceptible to the disease?

Generally the disease affects the elderly, and people who have lung problems or a low immunity system. It is also more common in people who smoke. It is a form of pneumonia.

## Where does it come from?

It is more commonly associated with air conditioning systems and cooling towers in larger buildings however it can be in any water system that can produce droplets of warm water.

This can include domestic hot and cold water systems, primarily showers, spas, hot tubs and water features.

## What can I do as a customer?

The risk of contracting Legionnaires disease from your home is very low. Some simple precautions can help.

- Keep your shower clean and free from scale.
- Regularly clean and disinfect the shower head
- If you have been away for more than one week run hot water through the shower head for **5-10** minutes.
- Store your hot water above **60c**. Be aware of scalding risk, this is normally when the hot water out of the taps is too hot to wash in – and you have too cool it down with cold water. Electric showers and combination boilers don't store water.
- If your hot and cold water turns a different colour or deposits come out of the taps let us know.
- In summer, run any hosepipes that have been left out in the garden into a bucket to clear the warm water contained within the hose

If you have any questions you can contact us on: **0300 123 4460** or email us on: **customersolutions@equityhousing.co.uk**

