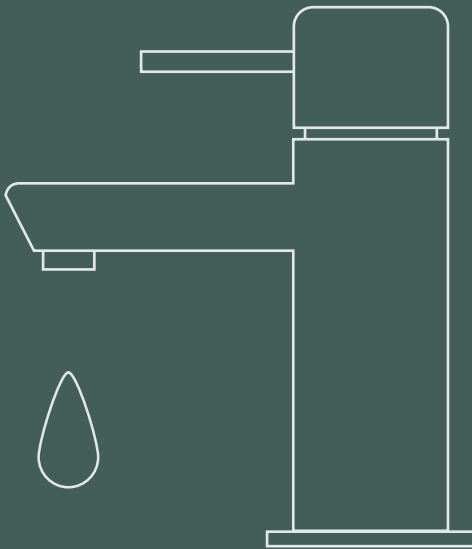


Water advice for customers



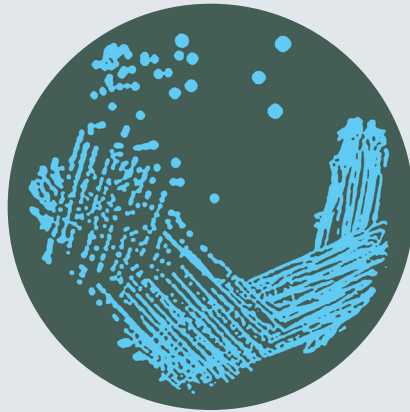
South
Yorkshire
Housing
Association



syha.co.uk

We all know that a clean water supply is vital to our health and wellbeing. However, what you may not know is most water systems contain bacteria and other organisms, and if these are allowed to multiply they can cause people to become ill. You may have heard of the most common and high-risk bacteria called Legionella.

What is Legionella?



Legionella are bacteria that are commonly found in rivers, lakes and reservoirs but can also be found in water systems, including storage tanks, pipe work, taps and showers. The bacteria are more likely to grow when there is sediment, sludge or scale in the system and between temperatures of 20°C and 45°C.

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by the legionella bacteria. It can affect anybody, but some people are more at risk such as people over 45, smokers, heavy drinkers, those suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease, and people who have a weak immune system.

What you can do to help prevent legionella outbreaks

- Store hot water at between 55°C and 60°C. See your boiler instructions for further information.
- If your home is empty for over a week, you should turn on your boiler or water heater and run the hot and cold water taps for ten minutes.
- Make sure that you turn on taps, including any in your garden each week for at least two minutes.
- Clean showerheads and hoses at least every three months by removing the head of the shower and cleaning it in hot water.
- By following these simple procedures, it drastically reduces the risk from legionella bacteria within your home. Legionella bacteria cannot breed in water tanks where the water is used regularly and it does not like temperatures that exceed 50°C.



For more information or to discuss any concerns you have about legionella with SYHA, please get in touch with us by calling:

0114 2900 200 or email
healthandsafety@syha.co.uk

You can also find out more information about legionella disease on the:
Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk
NHS website - www.nhs.uk/conditions