



# Legionella and Water Safety

## Information about keeping safe in your council home

Dacorum Borough Council has a responsibility to make sure our homes are safe and fit for human habitation. This leaflet tells you about legionella and water safety in your council home.

### **This leaflet tells you about:**

- What legionella is
- What the council does to control the risk
- What you can do
- Water safety in your home

### **What is legionella?**

Domestic hot and cold water systems can provide an environment where legionella bacteria may grow. This can cause 'Legionnaires' Disease' - a potentially serious form of pneumonia, together with other less severe health conditions. These are all caused by inhalation of very small droplets (aerosol) of contaminated water containing legionella bacteria. With a few simple controls however, the risk of ill health is extremely low.

### **What the council does to control the risk in your home**

We identify, assess and monitor sources of legionella risk and take action to prevent contamination of water systems in our properties.

We regularly audit our systems to make sure that records and checks are up to date and comply with guidance and legislation.

We will ensure that any outbreaks of legionella are dealt with appropriately and efficiently.

### **What you can do to control the risk in your home**

Report a repair in the usual way if the boiler or hot water tank in your home isn't working properly, especially if water is not coming out of the taps at a high enough temperature. It should come out at a temperature of 50°C after it has run for a minute.

Do not interfere with the settings on your boiler or hot water system. The hot water system should be set so that water is heated up to 60°C.

Tell us if cold water is still running warm after you have run off any water which may have gathered in pipes. Cold water should not be above 20°C.

Tell us if there is debris or discolouration in the water or any other problems that you are concerned about.

## Water safety in your home

If your shower or bath is used only occasionally then you should flush it through by running the water for at least two minutes per week. As far as possible, keep out of the way whilst the water is running.

You should clean, descale and disinfect the shower head at least every three months. Also, make sure you run the taps for at least two minutes when you come back from a holiday or are away from home for any time.

To tell us about a broken boiler, or other problems with your water, please go to [www.dacorum.gov.uk/repairs](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/repairs) or use the Freephone number **0800 018 6050** and select option 1 for boiler and central heating repairs or option 2 for other repairs.

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