

Water safety



Information about the safety and cleanliness of water supplies in Halton Housing Trust properties →

Halton Housing Trust is required by law to carry out a risk assessment of its properties when it comes to managing the safety of its water supplies. The main risks to people's health are caused by the family of bacteria known as Legionella.

What are legionella and Legionnaires' disease?

Legionella are bacteria that are commonly found in rivers and lakes as well as in artificial water systems such as storage tanks, pipework, taps and showers.

The bacteria is usually associated with larger water systems including factories, hotels, hospitals, museums and cooling towers, but they can also thrive in smaller water supply systems used in homes and other residential accommodation. Other potential sources of legionella include spa and whirlpool baths, humidifiers and fire-fighting equipment.

Legionella is able to survive in low temperatures and can multiply in temperatures between 20°C and 45°C. However, legionella is killed in high temperatures of 60°C and above.

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia which is caused by the legionella bacteria. It can affect anybody but those who are more susceptible include people over the age of 45, smokers and heavy drinkers, people with chronic respiratory or kidney disease and people with impaired immune systems.

Legionellosis is the collective name given to the pneumonia-like illnesses caused by legionella bacteria and includes the most serious and well-known Legionnaires' disease, as well as the less serious conditions of Pontiac fever and Lochgoilhead fever

Is there any risk to Trust properties?

The risk posed by water supplies in Trust properties is minimal. This is based on the fact that there have been no reported incidents of Legionella as far as we are aware.

We have therefore decided to make customers aware of the risks of legionella by issuing this leaflet. The Trust will also inspect properties before they are offered to customers and any legionella risks would be identified during any routine work carried out by staff.

How can our customers help?

You can also identify and report issues that might increase the likelihood of legionella bacteria breeding to dangerously high levels. These include:

- Does your cold water storage tank have a tight fitting lid?
- Are any of the water outlets no longer required?
- Does your property contain any dead-legs of piping? These are runs of pipes connected to the main hot or cold water systems that have been capped off.

If you identify any of these problems please contact the Trust on the freephone repair line **0800 195 3172**.

If you have a water outlet, particularly a shower that is seldom turned on, we would advise that you turn it on and let it run for a few minutes every week. When turning on a shower we suggest that you hold the shower head facing down over a bath before turning it on to lessen the risk of the spray being at breathing height.

If you have any questions about this leaflet or would like advice on legionella prevention in domestic water systems then please contact the Trust repair line.



Contacts for use in an emergency with your water supply

No water supply? Contact United Utilities Telephone: 0845 746 2200 Minicom: 0808 1430295

Discoloured water? Contact United Utilities Telephone: 0845 746 2200 Minicom: 0808 1430295

This document can be provided in large print, audio, electronic and Braille formats.
We are also RNID Typetalk compatible.
If you require this information in another language, please ring 0151 510 5000.

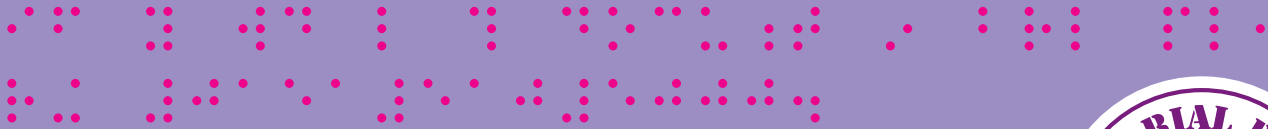
যদি আপনি এই তথ্য অন্য ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে 0151 510 5000 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

यह सूचना यदि आपको किसी अन्य भाषा में चाहिये तो कृपया नंबर 0151 510 5000 पर फोन करें।

یہ معلومات اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان میں چاہیے تو براۓ مہربانی نمبر 0151 510 5000 پر فون کریں۔

如果你需要其他語文版本的本資訊，請致電 0151 510 5000

Jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać powyższe informacje w innym języku prosimy zadzwonić pod numer 0151 510 5000



How to contact us

Halton Housing Trust, Daresbury Point, Green Wood Drive, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1UG
Telephone: 0151 510 5000 Fax: 0151 510 5100
email: info@haltonhousing.org website: www.haltonhousing.org

Company registration number: 5099862 Registered charity number: 1111346 Housing Corporation Registration: L4456

To report a repair call freephone 0800 195 3172