

Water Hygiene – What you need to know

The importance of water hygiene

While rented premises are generally very low risk it is important to implement measures to assure the hygiene of the water supply. This is because some diseases can be transmitted through inhaling water droplets contaminated by bacteria. Such diseases cannot be passed from one person to another or by drinking.

This leaflet aims to give you information on what precautions you can take within your home. Please read this leaflet carefully.

The risk

There is a risk if your property is empty for long periods of time i.e. over two weeks. This can be due to long hospital admissions, extended holiday periods or any other reason. The greatest risk is where stagnant water is present between 20 and 45°C in tanks, infrequently used outlets, shower heads and air conditioning units.

People at risk

Some people are at higher risk than others, including:-

- People over 45 years of age
- Smokers and heavy drinkers
- Those suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease
- Anyone with an impaired immune system

Controlling and minimising the risk

Below shows what you can do to maintain hygiene at an acceptable level.

Water outlets from mains supply

Open all taps and flush for at least five minutes.

Cold water storage tanks

Check tank for signs of stagnation, dead birds or animals, biofilms or corrosion. If there are any signs of these please telephone the repairs hotline on 01506 280000.

Shower heads

Remove the head and soak in hot water. Then run through with hot water for five minutes

Hot water storage tanks

Drain the cylinder, flush with fresh water and heat to 60°C for one hour. Flush through all hot taps.



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