



Legionella Prevention

Water Safety

Legionella Prevention

General Information

- Legionnaires' Disease is a pneumonia acquired by breathing air contaminated with Legionella bacteria. It is distributed worldwide. Although it is not very common, there are a significant number of reported cases associated with contaminated hotel water systems.
- Legionnaires' Disease is caused by Legionella bacteria that exist in freshwater environments. Humans can get infected by breathing in tiny droplets of water, known as aerosols, containing Legionella bacteria. Infected people are not contagious to other humans.
- The infection can be fatal.
- Legionella bacteria can be found in natural water sources like lakes, rivers or reservoirs. Normally their number is quite low there.
- In hotels they are found in man-made water systems such as air conditioning using water to cool the air, cooling towers, condensers, humidifiers, fountains or hot- and cold-water systems. They bacteria can multiply if the water system is not well maintained or only used rarely, e.g., during a seasonal closure.

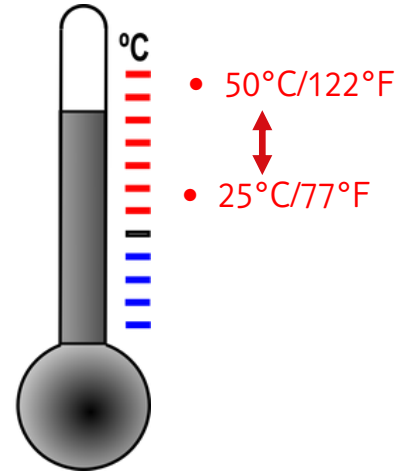


Conditions under which Legionella Proliferate

Important to know

Legionella can live and multiply in water under the following conditions:

- Water temperatures between 25°C (77°F) and 50°C (122°F)
- Presence of dirt in any part of the water system
- Stagnation of water
- Corrosion of pipes and containers
- Slime in pipes, containers and water connections



Where can Legionella Multiply?

Risk Areas

Sources of Legionella

There is a risk of infection in every water system that creates aerosols, if these are contaminated with Legionella.

Examples include:

- Showers and taps
- Toilet systems
- Spa pools, hot tubs and whirlpools
- Water parks and other water features
- Decorative fountains
- Air conditioning system using water for cooling
- Cooling towers
- Humidifiers
- Water heaters
- Systems for watering gardens/flowerpots
- Cisterns



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What can you do?

To avoid Legionnaires' Disease infections in your property it is imperative to

- Have a Legionella Prevention Plan, also known as a "15-Point Plan" for reducing the risk from Legionella
 - **See: 15-Point Plan Template**
- Have a designated and efficient Legionella management system, including having a responsible and trained person for Legionella control, a detailed water safety plan and regular control measures in place.
- After a seasonal closure of your hotel, seek specialist advice, inspect all water systems in your hotel and clean, flush and disinfect the water system in your hotel.
- Carry out an inspection of the water systems at least once a season when your hotel is open all-year round.
 - **For further information see: ECDC European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and ABTA FTO guidelines, 2017, section 15 Legionnaires' disease**



Contact

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