

Legionella

Legionella is a bacteria that can be found in water systems such as storage tanks, pipework, taps and showers. Legionella Bacteria can cause a form of pneumonia called Legionnaires disease, caused by the inhalation of small droplets of contaminated water. The bacteria doesn't spread in drinking water or person to person.

Symptoms of Legionnaires' are similar to flu symptoms and include a high temperature, fever and chills, cough, muscle pains and headaches

There are some steps that you can take to avoid the risk of Legionella in your home:

- Turn on all the taps in your house and the shower and leave them to run for a few minutes at least once a week.
- Your hot water system is set to heat water to 60c. Please don't change this setting as lower temperatures can provide better conditions for the bacteria to live and grow.
- If you are away for a week or more, when you return you should run your taps and shower for a few minutes before you use them.
- Keep your shower heads, hoses and taps clean and free from limescale and mould by descaling them every 3 months

The risk of Legionella to SKDC residents is extremely low, but it is our responsibility to make sure that all residents stay safe in their home. This includes helping you to avoid the risk of exposure to Legionella.

We work with partners who regularly monitor water systems and work to eliminate any potential risks.

If you have any questions please contact us or visit the Health & Safety Executive's web page on Legionella.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide (CO) is also known as the 'silent killer' because you can't see it, hear it, smell it or taste it. It can come from faulty appliances powered by any fuel that burns, this includes gas, oil, coal or wood. CO alarms detect the presence of this poisonous gas. We will fit and service carbon monoxide detectors as part of our ongoing improvement programmes.

Always take the following precautions (especially if a CO detector hasn't been fitted yet):

- NEVER use an appliance if you think it is not working correctly. Look out for signs that include yellow or orange flames, soot or staining around the appliance and pilot lights that frequently blow out, coal or wood fires that burn slowly or go out;
- NEVER cover up an appliance;
- NEVER block or obstruct any internal or externally fixed ventilation grille or airbrick
- NEVER block or cover any internal or externally fitted flue from an appliance
- NEVER allow an unqualified person to install or carry out works on your appliances or attempt the work yourself.

What should you do if you suspect Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

- Evacuate your home straight away, on your way out turn off any appliances and leave windows and doors open to ventilate the building if possible
- Call 999 if anyone has symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Once you are safe, report the incident to the gas emergency line on 0800 111 999 then report to Repairs Team
- Do not re enter the property until it has been checked out by a professional

What are Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Symptoms?

- A Tension-Type headache is the most common symptom
- Dizziness
- Feeling and being sick
- Confusion and Tiredness
- Stomach pain
- Breathing difficulties and shortness of breath.