

Cleaning and disinfection

The ACOP says the risk from exposure to legionella should be prevented or controlled; precautions include keeping the system and the water in it clean. The following section on cleaning and disinfection offers guidance on how to do this in hot and cold water systems.

190 Hot water services and, exceptionally, cold water services, should be cleaned and disinfected in the following situations:

- (a) if routine inspection shows it to be necessary
- (b) if the system or part of it has been substantially altered or entered for maintenance purposes in a manner which may lead to contamination; or
- (c) during or following an outbreak or suspected outbreak of legionellosis

191 Disinfection of the water services may be carried out in two ways:

- (a) by the use of suitable chemical disinfectants, eg by chlorination when it is necessary to disinfect the whole system including storage tanks; or
- (b) by thermal disinfection, ie by raising water temperature to a level at which legionella will not survive

Extract from HSG274 Part 2 ‘The Control of Legionella Bacteria in Hot & Cold Water Systems’