

# 7 risk factors for legionella in a care home

The nature of care homes' water systems, coupled with the vulnerability of their residents, puts them at a high risk of legionella and Legionnaires' disease - especially if the correct control measures are not in place. Want to avoid an outbreak or fines due to regulatory non-compliance? Here are a few of the things you should consider.

## Is your care home compliant?

Care homes that breach HSE and CQC regulations can face fines of over £100,000, and even prison sentences.

Recently charged health and social care facilities:

- January 2016: Reading council £120.000
- July 2016: St Christopher's hospice £25,000
- December 2015: Four seasons Evedale care home: £13,340
- June 2015: Brighton hospital trust £50,000

To download our guide to water safety in care homes, or request a free site survey in which we'll help you understand the steps your business can take to comply with CQC guidance. visit:

www.brodexuk.com

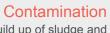
#### Water tanks

Standing water stored at temperatures between 20 and 45°C can encourage legionella growth.



#### **TMVs**

TMVs are vital to prevent scalding in care homes, but can encourage legionella growth if poorly maintained or too far from the outlet.





Build up of sludge and scale in dirty pipes, showerheads and faucets provide food and nutrients for deadly bacteria.



#### Aerosol inhalation

Legionnaires' disease is contracted when droplets of water containing legionella are inhaled. Showerheads are a common aerosol formation risk in residential buildings.



80% of confirmed cases of legionella occur in individuals over 50. In a third of cases, the victim is 70-plus. (Source: PHE)



### **Immunity**

Those with weakened immune systems are more susceptible to legionella infection.

74% of individuals affected by legionella in 2015 had an underlying health issue. Those with heart conditions were most at risk, followed by smokers and those with diabetes. (Source: PHE)

#### Dead legs

Pipes that are never or rarely used are called dead legs, and can lead to water stagnation - a high risk factor for legionella growth.

