

BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Legionella Control Procedure Flushing/Purging Regime Infrequently Used Outlets

“The risk from legionella growing in peripheral parts of the water system such as at dead legs may be minimised by regular use of water outlets on the system. When outlets are not in regular use, weekly flushing of these devices for several minutes can significantly reduce the number of legionellae discharged from the outlet. Once started, this procedure has to be sustained and logged, as lapses can result in a critical increase in legionella at the outlet.” (The Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems L8)

The number of legionella bacteria in hot and cold water systems are controlled in the main by:

- Designing systems to minimise the risk
- Ensuring systems are kept clean
- Ensuring water in the system does not stagnate and is kept moving so far as possible
- Controlling the temperature of water in systems where possible

When buildings or parts of buildings are not in regular usage, for example out of season periods, the use of the water system will likely be significantly reduced. These circumstances could lead to water stagnating in pipework, creating an environment that is favourable to the growth of legionella bacteria.

To maintain control of legionella bacteria in the water system a weekly flushing/purging regime will be implemented at the Football Changing Rooms on the Twentyman playing fields.

Flushing

When flushing showerheads and taps that have not been used in the last seven days or more, it is the first quantity of water that could potentially be contaminated. Once this water has run through the risk of exposure is reduced. Therefore, it is the first 30 seconds to 1 minute when the risk is greater and staff must minimise the risk of contact with spray from outlets during this first flush through.

Showers

Run water from both hot and cold supplies, or warm if on a single mixer tap, through the showerhead for 5 minutes, showerheads are designed to produce spray (and consequently aerosols) and therefore when these have not run for seven days or more, it is recommended that the showerhead is enclosed (for example using a bag) and the shower run through to a bucket so that any spray is minimised. The collected water should then be discarded to drain.

Taps

Run water from both the hot and cold supplies, or warm if on a single mixer tap, through tap(s) for 5 minutes. The water should be run slowly to avoid spray for 1 minute and can then run faster for a further 4 minutes.

Toilets

All toilets should be flushed at least once per week.

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Purging

Where it is difficult to carry out weekly flushing, the outlet concerned needs to be purged to drain before the outlet is used normally. Therefore the following procedure should be utilised:

- Open the outlet gradually and slowly at first.
- It may be necessary to use additional piping (for example a hose pipe attachment) to purge directly to drain if spray may be produced.
- Run the outlet for 5 minutes before using the outlet.

It is envisaged that this procedure will only apply to outlets that are in areas difficult to access regularly and that all of the accessible outlets will be flushed weekly.

Record Keeping

It is important that the flushing/purging is recorded using the log sheet. All log sheets must be retained by the Parish Clerk for at least 5 years

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LOG SHEET

Wash Hand Basins, Toilets and Shower Facilities

All taps and showers must be run for a minimum of 5 minutes once per week, all toilets must be flushed once per week. Please complete the log sheet details below

Location/Room:

Week	Date	Flushed/Purged - Yes/No	Signature
Week	Date	Flushed/Purged - Yes/No	Signature
Week	Date	Flushed/Purged - Yes/No	Signature
Week	Date	Flushed/Purged - Yes/No	Signature
Week	Date	Flushed/Purged - Yes/No	Signature
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