



THREE SMALL HABITS. BIG PROTECTION.

Legionella bacteria can grow in warm, stagnant water, and could make you sick. These three habits keep your household out of harm's way.

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1 FLUSH WATER THROUGH PIPES.

Home empty for 3 or more days? Water disruption in your area? Run cold water at every tap and shower for 5 minutes, then run hot water until fully hot plus 5 more minutes. Open a window to avoid breathing in the steam.

2 DON'T DRINK FROM THE WATER HOSE.

Hoses sit warm and still all summer — perfect for bacteria. Flush hoses for 2-3 minutes before use and drink from a kitchen tap instead.

3 CARE FOR HOT TUBS AND MIST-MAKERS.

Legionella can grow in standing tap water in equipment such as humidifiers, CPAP machines, power washers, and hot tubs. Use distilled water if possible, drain and dry between uses, clean and maintain equipment per manufacturers instructions.



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[Health.mo.gov/watergerms](https://health.mo.gov/watergerms) | DHSSlegionella@health.mo.gov | 573-526-4021