

Legionella Safe Practice Guide for Caretakers, Site Managers and responsible persons



**Techniques for
Flushing Taps and Shower Heads**

Background

Legionella is a type of bacteria that is found in water supplies. It is commonly spread in water but whilst it is in small numbers it poses little risk to humans.

Legionella causes a type of pneumonia that can cause severe illness and can lead to fatalities.

The danger lies when the bacteria are allowed to grow to high levels and this water is allowed to form into sprays that can be breathed in and taken into the lungs.

If Legionella bacteria are given the following:

- Temperatures between 20°C and 50°C
- An ample food supply – such as rust in the pipes
- Time to grow – such as water in pipes left to stagnate in little used outlets

then they can grow rapidly to levels that could cause illness.

Within Nottinghamshire County Council the following methods are used to control Legionella.

Legionella Risk Assessments are carried out by the Water Hygiene Team

Remedial works identified in the risk assessment are programmed as part of a local site action plan

Tank cleaning/temperature monitoring of the water supply within buildings

Flushing of little used outlets is carried out by each site

The following guidance is designed to help you flush little used outlets safely.

Footwear

Ensure that you are wearing footwear appropriate for work in potentially slippery environments



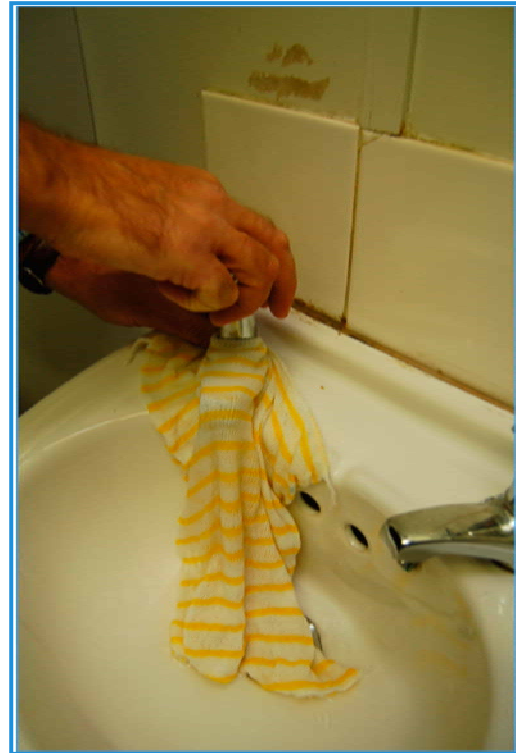
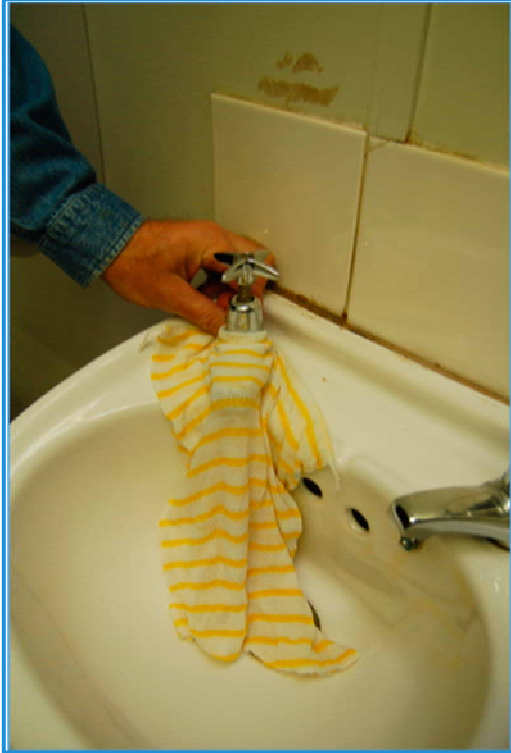
Tap Flushing

Ensure that the possibility of spray from the tap head is reduced, especially if the tap head is fitted with a diffuser head that is designed to form a fan of water as it pours.

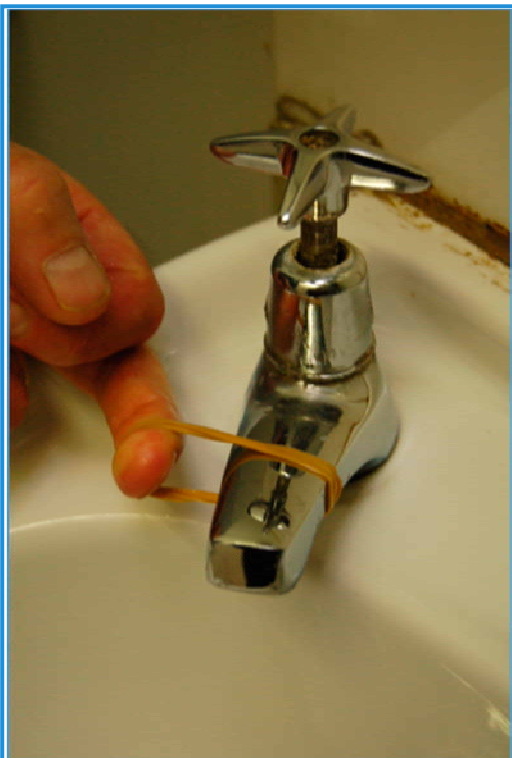


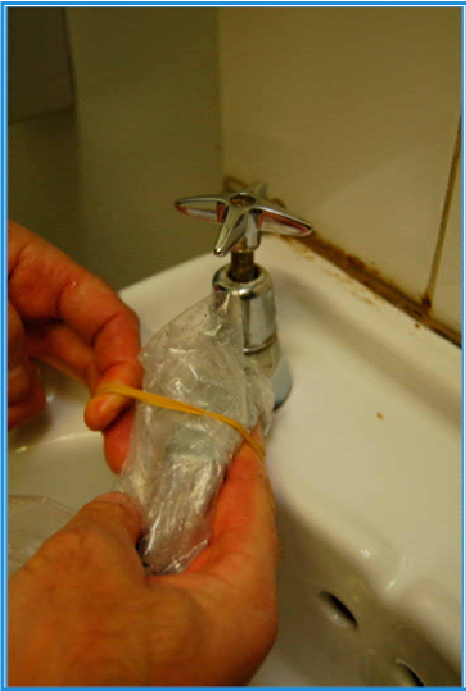
Methods to reduce spay from little used taps

A simple way that water can be made to flow to the basin without creating spray is to place a flannel over the tap.



Another method is to use a plastic bag with a corner cut out





Flushing little used showers

By design a showers are designed to create spray which could if not controlled be breathed in. To control this the following controls are recommended.



This shower has a restraining bar were the pipe is held. It may be necessary to remove the shower head before flushing.



Take care not to lose the washer down the drain.



Reconnect the shower head and for all shower heads that can be laid at low levels for flushing these should be placed in a bucket of water to prevent sprays.



Bagging Fixed Shower Heads

Some shower heads are fixed to the wall and cannot be moved. The following is a method used to prevent sprays whilst flushing these type of showers. (Shower shown for demonstration only)



Use a bag and either a bag tie or elastic band over the shower head to catch the spray.





Water can then be directed to ground or bucket without creating spray.

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