

Legionella Testing in Water

Eurofins provides reliable, cost-effective legionella testing services

Legionella is a genus of gram-negative bacteria that includes species such as *L. pneumophila* which can cause legionellosis (all illnesses caused by Legionella), including a pneumonia-type illness called Legionnaires' disease and a mild flu-like illness called Pontiac fever.

This disease usually affects only immuno-compromised people, the very young or elderly, those who drink and smoke excessively, and is more likely to affect males over the age of 55.

Legionella in water and Legionnaires disease

Legionella bacteria gain access to the lungs via water droplets in aerosols that are created in any water source such as a bathing lake, a domestic shower head, a cooling tower, water features etc.

As you breathe them in they get deeper into the lungs where conditions are humid and warm which is perfect for them to multiply.

The infection leads to inflammation of the lungs and the body produces mucus, in order to remove both this and the bacteria results in the main symptom of a cough but also fever, headache, chills, stomach upsets, also muscle pains are common, among others.



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Should I use a Legionella testing kit?

There are a number of commercially available Legionella testing kits and whilst they may have some value in certain circumstances, they do not compare with laboratory testing which gives a much higher Limit of Detection e.g. 100 cfu/L.

Additionally, Legionella Testing kits can only tell you if *L.pneumophila* Sg 1 is present and typically only use a small volume of water for the test, this is not in line with L8 which requires a numerical value for the number of Legionella bacteria to be reported in a 1000ml volume.

Why choose Eurofins?

- ✔ Operates five UKAS-accredited (No. 9658 and 1369) water hygiene testing laboratories strategically located across the UK to support legionella testing
- ✔ Nationwide logistics network with more than 60 convenient sample drop-off locations
- ✔ Member of the Legionella Control Association (LCA)