



Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council

Serving the communities of Wolverton, Greenleys, Old Wolverton, Wolverton Mill, Stonebridge, Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes.

Town Hall, Creed Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5LY

Direct Line: 01908 326800 Email: office@wolvertonandgreenleystowncouncil.gov.uk

Reducing the Risk of Legionella

Legionnaires' disease is a lung infection you can get from inhaling droplets of water containing bacteria that causes the infection from things like air conditioning or hot tubs. It's uncommon but it can be very serious. For more information please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/legionnaires-disease/ Please see below for advice and tips to reduce the risk of legionella.

Water

- Tenants are advised to avoid creating an aerosol, such as with handheld misters, or pumps from their water butts
- Tenants that have water butts, should be advised to clean these periodically, and not leave them full of water and unused during the summer months, when conditions for Legionella bacterial growth are optimal
- Empty the water out of garden hoses after use and do not leave full hoses in the sun after use
- Avoid splashing water around when watering pots
- Keep water storage containers such as tanks and butts clean by emptying and scrubbing out once a year. Insulate them to reduce temperatures increasing in warm weather or paint them with a light colour to reflect the heat
- If the temperature of stored water for use in mist irrigation or sprinklers is above 20°C, do not use
- Protect yourself from water-borne diseases such as Weil's disease by wearing waterproof gloves, clothing and boots when clearing out ponds

PPE

- Wear gloves whenever handling soil, compost, toadstools, potentially harmful plants, fertiliser or pesticides. Thin latex (or latex-free for allergy sufferers) gloves can be worn for delicate work
- Do not open bags of compost or potting media with your head right over it
- Consider wearing a dust mask when turning compost heaps and handling potting media or other dusty materials
- Wear gloves and keep arms covered when pruning plants that can cause irritations; e.g. ivy (Hedera), Fremontodendron, Euphorbia or rue (Ruta)

Medical and Handwashing

- Ensure tetanus jabs are up to date. Otherwise, see your local GP for a tetanus vaccination if you have cut yourself on a plant or got soil or manure in an open wound
- Always wash your hands after gardening and especially before eating
- Keep a hand sterilising gel down in the potting shed if clean water is not available

Tasks

- Fold over the top of compost bags when not in use
- Avoid potting-up in confined spaces
- Moisten dry potting media before use. Also dampen down dry compost heaps before turning or use



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- Avoiding storing potting media in greenhouses as these will heat up and may encourage Legionella
- Only shred woody prunings in an open, well-ventilated area

Vermin

- Discourage rats by securing rubbish in bins and not putting cooked food on the compost heap
- Rat-proof compost bins with wire mesh if necessary. To reduce the risks from salmonella avoid using rat-infested compost on edible crops, especially those not cooked before consumption