

# Legionella Control Toolkit Glossary

**Aerosolized water:** Small droplets of water in the air (generally, 5 microns in diameter or less), which can contain *Legionella* or other bacteria and can be deeply inhaled into the lungs

**Biocide:** See disinfectant

**Biofilm:** Germs and the slime they secrete that stick to and grow on any continually moist surface; provides a stable growth surface and an environment with nutrients for many types of germs, including *Legionella*

**Building water systems:** Includes hot and cold water distribution systems and all devices that use water to which people can be exposed, such as hot tubs, decorative fountains, and cooling towers

**Control:** To manage conditions within the building according to a water management program or to maintain established criteria

**Control limits:** Maximum value, minimum value, or range of values acceptable for the control measures being monitored to reduce risk for *Legionella* growth and spread

**Control measures:** Actions that can be taken for building water systems to limit growth and spread of *Legionella*, such as heating, adding disinfectant, or cleaning; control measures enable maintenance of control limits

**Control points:** Locations in water systems where a control measure can be applied

**Corrective action:** Actions taken to reestablish control when monitoring values or measurements are outside control limits

**Dead legs:** Piping subject to low or no flow because of design or decreased water use; for example, capped pipes or unused faucets

**Disinfectant:** Chemical or physical treatment to kill germs; for example, chlorine, monochloramine, chlorine dioxide, bromine compounds, copper-silver ionization, ultraviolet light, or ozone

**Disinfectant residual:** Amount of disinfectant available in water to kill bacteria

**Drift:** Water mist or small droplets carried by air, which may include aerosols

**Hazardous conditions:** Any condition or factor that can contribute to the growth and spread of *Legionella* to a person if not controlled

**Healthcare facility:** Hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, or other settings where patients seek care, such as dental offices, pharmacies, or outpatient laboratories

**Legionella:** Bacteria that can cause Legionnaires' disease

**Legionnaires' disease:** A serious type of pneumonia caused by *Legionella*

**Make-up water:** Water provided to a device to replace system water lost through evaporation, processing, or draining

**Non-potable water:** Water not intended for people to drink or ingest, such as water for industrial processes, irrigation, or equipment like cooling towers

**Non-routine Legionella testing:** Testing for *Legionella* to investigate potential sources of environmental exposure for persons with disease. Testing for public health investigations should always be performed in conjunction with the public health authority having jurisdiction



**People at increased risk for Legionnaires' disease:** Includes people 50 years or older, current or former smokers, people with a chronic lung disease (like emphysema), people with weak immune systems or who take drugs that weaken the immune system, people with cancer, and people with underlying illnesses such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

**Potable water:** Hot or cold water intended for people to drink or ingest, such as drinking, bathing, food preparation, and dishwashing

**Remediation:** Response activities taken to reduce contamination in response to control measures, such as routine *Legionella* test results, that persistently exceed control limits or to events that pose an immediate risk to control of building water systems; required whenever Legionnaires' disease occurs; may also be appropriate for unexpected events such as equipment failure or acts of nature that disrupt the water system

**Residual:** See Disinfectant residual

**Routine *Legionella* testing:** Testing for *Legionella* to establish a baseline measurement for performance indicators or for validating a water management program or corrective action. Methods and objectives vary from those of non-routine *Legionella* testing

**Sediment and scale:** Mineral build-up in a water system that uses up disinfectant and supports growth or survival of bacteria

**Stagnation:** When water does not flow well; areas of stagnation encourage biofilm growth, ambient temperatures, and disinfectant residual reduction

**Supplemental disinfection:** Adding disinfectant to a water system on site; may require permitting for potable water systems

**Validation:** Activities to confirm the water management program is working as intended and is effective for *Legionella* control; testing for *Legionella* is one method for validation of a water management program

**Verification:** Activities to confirm the water management program procedures are occurring as intended; reviewing temperature logs to ensure temperature measurement is occurring at the intended frequency is one method for verification of a water management program

**Water age:** Amount of time it takes for water to reach a point of use or fixture/device from the point of entry; for example, slow moving water has a higher water age than water moving quickly through a building water system

**Water management program (WMP):** Multistep process to reduce *Legionella* growth and spread; includes establishing a team, describing building water systems, identifying areas or devices where *Legionella* might grow or spread to people, determining control measures, monitoring control measures, establishing remediation activities and interventions when control measures are not met, ensuring the program is running as designed and is effective, and documenting all program activities