



Water Outlet Descaling

We all know that water is the source of life, keeping us hydrated and clean, but it is not without its risks and is a common vector for the transmission of dangerous pathogens. Safe water is essential to our health and one way to achieve this is by sanitising the environments in which it is used.

The Risk of Infection

Waterborne diseases can be easily transmitted through plumbing systems, hot water tanks and heaters as well as shower heads and taps. One of the most common of these is Legionnaire's disease, an infection that attacks the respiratory system and is transmitted by inhaling droplets of water containing *Legionella*.

Legionella thrives in water maintained for extended periods between 20°C and 45°C so poses a particular risk in infrequently used washroom facilities and heating systems. For this reason, and others, regulation on Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) requires commercial properties to control the risk of *Legionella* in their water systems by carrying out quarterly descaling of shower heads and taps.

The Most Susceptible

In a clinical setting, where patients may have compromised immune systems, the risk of infection is even greater. Acquiring an HAI (Hospital Acquired Infection) in turn increases their length of stay in hospital, reduces patient bed turnover and places a greater strain on what, typically, are already stretched resources.

Contaminated tap water has been known to cause outbreaks of Legionella and Surgical Site Infections² and it has been shown that water may often contain mycobacteria, often resistant to chemical disinfectants that are undetectable by conventional bacteriological tests. This reinforces the importance of keeping water systems clean.



Did you know...



CONTAMINATED TAP WATER
HAS BEEN KNOWN
TO CAUSE **OUTBREAKS**
OF **LEGIONELLA** SURGICAL
SITE INFECTIONS²

- Water may often contain mycobacteria which are resistant to chemical disinfectants and are undetectable by conventional bacteriological tests³
- Steam cleaning has been shown to completely remove C.diff spores¹



Sources: See overleaf.



How Inivos Can Help

Inivos offers a descaling service to actively remove limescale and rinse; an effective means of also of controlling micro-organisms. This service can be offered as on an on-call basis or as part of a managed contract.

Our water outlet descaling services can be combined with our other services focused on the water vector of transmission to create an effective strategy, ensuring a consistent supply of clean, safe water.

Our Service

We manage our service from end-to-end to ensure all stakeholders are aligned through clear communication of a complete project plan. Our teams of qualified technicians are available to operate on your site with minimum disturbance or disruption and with rapid turnaround times. This involves:

Preparation

Our technician first liaises with relevant clinical or hospital staff to work around your needs and to find a time for exclusive access to the showers and washrooms.

The appropriate cleaning solutions are then prepared and, where required, fixtures and fittings are removed in preparation for cleaning. In floor descaling, a route will be planned to safely navigate areas.

Active Cleaning

The next step is to carry out the cleaning. This involves descaling equipment in the solutions and physically scrubbed taps, fittings, tiles and floorings with abrasive pads, dust-control equipment and suction-clean machinery. This is repeated until all surfaces have been thoroughly and completely descaled.

Further Steps

After cleaning and descaling, our technician will inform clinical or hospital staff that they may begin to prepare the room for the readmission of patients. For effective cleaning, this service is best carried out in conjunction with water system flushing, water treatment, waste trap deep cleaning and thermostatic mixing valve (TMV) flushing.

Our Approach

Our approach follows a set of steps which we apply to every part of what we do. This involves analysing your needs and environment, designing solutions fit for purpose and delivering effective results.

Our knowledge and expertise allow us to provide the very best in decontamination, with a particular emphasis on the efficacy and safety of our models.

Why Inivos?

Not only are we an established and trusted name in healthcare, with facilities and hospitals around the world relying on our advanced hydrogen peroxide vapour and UV-C light disinfection robots, but we also offer **a level of expertise second to none**, and **services not provided by other companies**, including on-call services and maintenance programmes across a range of industries.



Multiple areas included



Evidence based processes



Validated assurance



Dedicated project management

Helping you provide patient-ready spaces with on-call decontamination and managed services



Our Inivos services are easy to arrange and tailored to your requirements:

Call **0845 270 6690** or email **customerservices@inivos.com**

Sources: ¹ Department of Health. (2007) An integrated approach to hospital cleaning: microfibre cloth and steam cleaning technology. DH: London, UK. ² Lowry PW, Blankenship RJ, Gridley W, Troup NJ, Tompkins LS. A cluster of legionella sternal-wound infections due to postoperative topical exposure to contaminated tap water. N Engl J Med. 1991;324(2):109-113. doi:10.1056/NEJM199101103240207. ³ Andersen BM. Prevention of Postoperative Wound Infections. Prevention and Control of Infections in Hospitals. 2018;377-437. Published 2018 Sep 25. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-99921-0_33.