

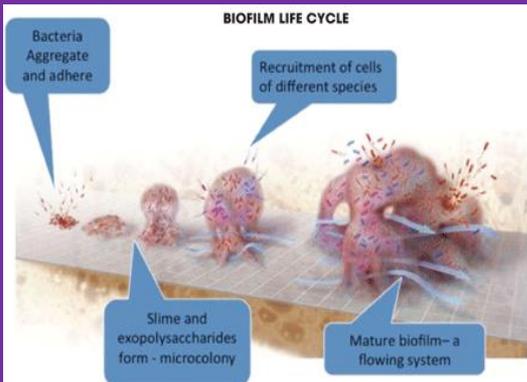


PATHOGENS & DUWL'S



What pathogens do we need to be aware of in the dental water lines (DUWL's)?

Legionella is the main pathogen we focus on, however there are other pathogens such as Pseudomonas Aeruginosa and Mycobacteria which are potentially harmful micro-organisms that can also be present in DUWL's.



- Biofilm can form in DUWL's.
- DUWL's are an ideal environment for pathogens to grow.
- Intermittent usage and nutrients within the tubing are ideal for the pathogens to settle & grow.
- Also contamination can occur when opportunistic pathogens (as mentioned above) enter the system in small numbers from the mains water supply.
- Keep cold water cold delivered to the outlets less than 20 degrees centigrade.
- Other micro-organisms such as Fungi & Protozoa species have been found in DUWL's.

Disinfection of DUWL'S

- Always clean and disinfect DUWL's according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Aseptic technique should be used when filling the reservoir bottles to minimise potential contamination with skin micro-organisms .
- Always wear the appropriate PPE
- Always choose a DUWL disinfection product that can remove Biofilm and is compatible with the DUWL system unit.



- Do not let the water in the DUWL stagnate.
- DUWL systems should be flushed for at least 2 minutes at the beginning and end of every day and after any significant period when they have not been used (E.g. lunch breaks).
- In addition water lines should be flushed for at least 20-30 seconds between each patient.
- This should be done without hand pieces attached.

Further guidance

- HTM 04 01 : Health Technical Memorandum 04 01 : Safe water in healthcare premises (Part A revised May 2016)
- The Control of Legionella bacteria in water systems: Approved Code of Practice and guidance ('L8')
- HTM 01 05: Decontamination Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices (2013)

Please contact Karen Jones on 01744 457314/ 01744 457312 if you require any additional advice/support.