

# ASHRAE Technical FAQ

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ID 18

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Question How does ASHRAE recommend that cooling towers be cleaned to minimize conditions that allow *Legionella* growth and the risk of Legionellosis?

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Refer to the equipment manufacturer's operation and maintenance instructions for guidance on cleaning, suggested frequency of inspection and cleaning for various components, and recommendations for cleaning prior to initial and seasonal start-up.

Answer ASHRAE's recommendations regarding Legionellosis are contained in [ASHRAE Standard 188-2018](#), Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems, and the [ASHRAE Guideline 12 -2000](#), Minimizing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems, and to a lesser extent in the ASHRAE Handbooks.

ASHRAE recommends that cooling towers should be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with [ASHRAE Guideline 12 -2000](#) to minimize the risk of dissemination of *Legionella* bacteria. The guideline includes recommendations for cleaning and disinfection.

The guideline may be purchased on-line at our website, [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org) or by calling 1-800-527-4723 in the USA and Canada or 1-404-636-8400 worldwide.

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ASHRAE Pubs [ASHRAE Standard 188-2018](#), Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems  
[ASHRAE Guideline 12 -2000](#), Minimizing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water System

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Topic References Legionellosis, water systems, cooling towers

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	Cognizant ASHRAE Committees	Refer to Organization
1	<a href="#">TC 3.6</a>	
2	<a href="#">EHC</a>	
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