



# Understanding Your Home Water Pressure Regulator

Pressure regulators are designed to adjust water pressure to the appropriate level for private plumbing. In some cases, lowering pressure can save water, help prevent leaks, and extend the life of your plumbing. Therefore, being aware of how water pressure regulators work and how to maintain them is important.

## What is a pressure regulator? Do I need one?

- Pressure regulators allow you to reduce the pressure to your desired level or what is appropriate for your private plumbing.
- An adjustable spring loaded diaphragm within the regulator reduces the pressure to a set level before the water reaches any plumbing fixtures inside the home.
- Water pressure regulators are an important part of your home plumbing system and may be required per municipal code.



## What kind and size of water pressure regulator do I need?

- Consult with a certified, licensed plumber for proper sizing to fit the needs of your plumbing system and the water pressure to your property.
- Local plumbing and hardware stores have a variety of pressure regulators and can show you options.

## Do I have a pressure regulator? Where is it located?

- If a pressure regulator is already installed on your property, it is likely located near the service line and after the main shut-off valve.
- This is because if you need to work on or replace the water pressure regulator, you will be able to simply shut off the main water supply to the property to do so.

## Does my water pressure regulator need maintenance?

- It is good practice to test the water pressure, flush the regulator, and test pressure again at least once a year.
- The life expectancy of a water pressure regulator is advertised between 10 to 15 years. However, most manufacturers and plumbing professionals recommend replacing the valve every 5 years.



## What should the water pressure on my property be?

- It's recommended that water pressure levels be maintained between 40 to 80 psi.
- If there is consistent low water pressure, you may want to consider installing a pressure booster pump. Pressure regulators only reduce pressure to a set value; they do not increase pressure.

## What if I am experiencing issues with my water pressure?

- Like all plumbing fixtures and valves, water pressure regulators can clog and may fail. If you notice water hammering of any type or inconsistencies in the water pressure, have your water pressure regulator checked by contacting a qualified plumber. You can also use a gauge to test if the water pressure is still consistent with the original set point.