

# Water Under Pressure

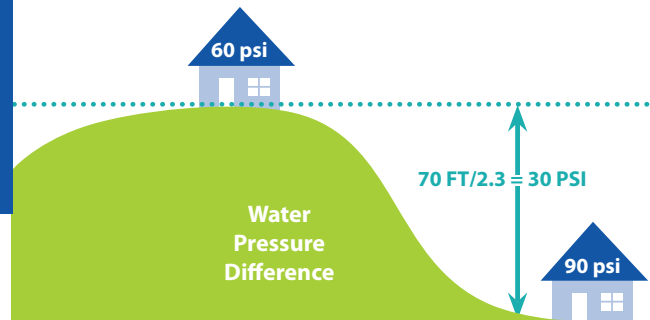
## Why is pressure a concern in the Poudersville area?

First, you must understand that the hilly terrain of the water district presents certain challenges. The elevation of each customer's property is directly related to the amount of system pressure at that specific tap. For every 2.3 feet of change in elevation, one psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure will occur. So, if you live in a small valley 46 feet below your neighbor's property, you will experience 20 psi difference at your property versus your neighbor (46 ft. divided by 2.3 equals 20 psi). This means that your neighbor could experience a comfortable 65 psi and you could experience 85 psi, which you should take steps to reduce using a pressure regulating valve.

## How do I know if I need a pressure regulating valve (PRV)?

First, make sure that you do not have a pressure regulating valve already installed. If you do not have one, we advise you to visit a supply house and purchase a water pressure gauge (that adapts to your outdoor faucet) for about \$10. Once you have the gauge, connect it to your outdoor faucet or your washing machine supply. Make sure no other water fixtures are on in the house or building. Turn the faucet on and record the pressure reading. If your pressure is higher than 60 psi, we recommend that you purchase a pressure regulating valve that is adjustable. These can be purchased at a local supply house for about \$45. We sometimes have a limited supply available at PWD's office for \$45, as well.

**Where does this valve need to be installed?** This device needs to be installed on your water line that is serving your house or building before it connects to your internal plumbing. Installation of the PRV immediately behind the meter will provide protection for all plumbing. The adjustable pressure



regulating valve (see picture below) will be pre-set at the factory for 50 psi. In other words, if the line pressure at the street is 90 psi, your pressure at the house or building will be stepped down to 50 psi automatically by the valve, thereby protecting your plumbing. If you want to adjust the pressure to 60 psi, you may do this by turning the adjustment screw on the top of the valve and verifying the building pressure with the same pressure gauge used prior at your faucet.

## How do I install the pressure regulating valve?

If you know how to perform minor plumbing repairs or if you have ever repaired a sprinkler irrigation line, you can probably install this device yourself. PWD recommends that you install the valve on the incoming service line to the house or building. If you are uncomfortable performing this task, PWD has local plumbing contractors that we can recommend.



*Pressure regulating valve installed*



*A \$10 pressure gauge is easy to use and will give you a preliminary assessment of water pressure in your home.*



## How much will all of this cost?

If you buy a pressure gauge now and record a pressure of 60 psi or lower (a safe margin), you will only have to spend about \$10. If your pressure exceeds 60 psi and you buy a pressure regulating valve for \$45 and if you have minor plumbing skills, you will spend about \$55. If you need to hire a plumber and provide the valve, the installation price should be under \$300. Prices may vary depending on the work conditions. But remember, one bad leak due to excessive pressure could cause thousands of dollars of damage.

**Why do I have to pay for this?** The water district has no right to enter private property. Therefore, it would be impossible for the district to install and maintain a pressure regulating valve on each customer's property.

## EASY INDICATORS OF HIGH WATER PRESSURE:

- Garden hose is whipping when faucet is turned on
- Shower hurts when turned on
- Repeated water leaks in plumbing
- Lawn sprinkler sprays to extreme distances
- Sink fixtures spray outside of bowl
- Abnormal operation of toilets

**FURTHER QUESTIONS?** Please contact the Customer Service Department  
864-269-5440 • [www.PowdersvilleWaterDistrict.com](http://www.PowdersvilleWaterDistrict.com)