

Mallory Valley must maintain higher levels of pressure in the public water mains in order to deliver water to all parts of the District. In addition, the District's water distribution system is gravity fed. Therefore, pressure can vary greatly from one area of the District to another. The District cannot regulate or guarantee water pressure on the customer's side of the meter. And, Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) are required by City Plumbing Codes.

**604.8 Water pressure reducing valve or regulator: Where water pressure within a building exceeds 80 psi static, an approved water pressure reducing valve conforming to ASSE 1003 with strainer shall be installed to reduce the pressure in the building's water distribution piping to 80 psi static or less.**

Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) are a type of valve installed in the plumbing of residential homes and commercial buildings to regulate water pressure. The purpose of a PRV is to reduce incoming water pressure from the public water mains to a pressure that is safe for a customer's plumbing system. The PRV provides water pressure consistency and are also a water conservation tool. By avoiding higher than required pressure, water is conserved.

The PRV is usually installed at the water service entry point to the home or building after the first shutoff valve and before the meter yoke assembly. Most homes and businesses are equipped with a PRV. However, if you do not have a PRV, any licensed plumber should be able to install a PRV for you.

**Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about water pressure and PRVs:**

**What should the pressure be set at in my home?**

Mallory Valley recommends pressure levels no greater than 70 psi.

**Why do I need a pressure reducing valve?**

The Uniform Plumbing Code (cited above) requires a pressure reducing valve on all plumbing systems exceeding 80 psi. Additionally, irrigation systems may require a reducing valve if pressures exceed 70 psi. This requirement will prevent damage of the piping system due to excessive pressures.

**What are the symptoms of a PRV that is no longer working properly?**

- A sudden loss of or a gradual reduction in water pressure within the home.
- A banging or high pitched whistling sound coming from the pipes usually when the water is being turned off.
- PRVs may also fail in the open position providing higher than desired pressures.
- Typically there is no indication this may have occurred other than noticeably higher pressure at the faucet or toilets that continue to run after the bowl is filled.

**What does a PRV look like?**

The following are some examples of typical residential PRVs.

