



District of Port Hardy

Operational Services Department

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Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs)

What is a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)?

Pressure reducing valves are installed in a plumbing system to regulate incoming water pressure to a constant, steady pressure.

Why is the water pressure vary in different areas of the community?

Because the District's water distribution system is a gravity system, pressures vary based on elevation. Water pressures is controlled by a series of large pressure reducing valves but can vary based on time of day and water usage.

My water pressure is too high. What can I do?

If you feel your water pressure is too high, you can install a pressure reducing valve (PRV) to lower the pressure in your home or business. PRVs are required for buildings where pressure is expected to be greater than 80 psi.

Do I have a PRV? Where would it be?

Most homes should be equipped with a PRV as per the BC Plumbing Code. To locate, it should be at or near the water shutoff valve inside your home. It may also be in a crawl space or near your hot water tank.

I don't have a PRV. How do I find out if I need one?

If you are experiencing significant pressure fluctuations or fixture leakage you may need a PRV. If you are unsure whether you need one, contact 250-949-7779.

Where do I get a PRV?

Plumbing and building supply stores will carry them.

How do I know if my existing PRV has failed?

The most common signs that a PRV is beginning to fail are:

- Water pressure surges
- Hammering or vibrating noises
- Noted increase/decrease in pressure at fixtures
- Flow rates greater than rating of fixture
- Frequent leaks or dripping faucets (high water pressure can wear out valves and cause leaks)
- Sudden loss of water pressure
- Unexplained loss of water flow

Can my PRV be adjusted or repaired?

Yes, slight variations in water pressure can typically be addressed with minor adjustments to the PRV. Be sure to check manufacturer's instructions before making adjustments. Manuals can be found on-line or contact a plumber.

