

High Household Water Pressure

Most plumbing fixture manufacturers recommend their products be used with water pressure no higher than 80 psi. Anything higher than that can cause fixtures such as water heaters, faucets, shut-off valves and toilet parts to fail prematurely.

You will want to install a water pressure regulator at the point where water supply enters the building. Homes build after 2002 likely include a Pressure Regulator Valve. The typical PRV's lifespan is about 7 to 12 years. Usually this valve is located near your shut-off valve.

Water pressure to your house is very similar to blood pressure in your body. High blood pressure puts stress on internal organs and can cause serious problems if left untreated. Although people often don't always realize they have high water pressure, there is stress being applied to the entire home's plumbing system.

Excessive pressure can cause or contribute to

- Banging pipes
- Spitting from the faucet aerator when turning on a faucet
- Short water heater life
- Leaking faucets
- Short washing machine life
- Short dishwasher life
- Running toilets
- Septic drainfield flooding and failure if your building is connected to a private septic system
- Increased sewer bill costs in communities who base their sewer charges on water usage metering
- Increased hot water heating costs: if water pressure is unnecessarily high, the increased volume and rate of cold water flowing through a home water heater increases the operating cost of that appliance



Water is a dynamic fluid with mass. When it is stopped suddenly, the mass of the water increases the force of the water over that of its static pressure. Just like a one pound hammer exerts a much greater force when it comes to a sudden stop at the top of a nail; the force of the water hammer effect may cause pipe joints to break, valves to leak, and over time and repeated occurrences, parts to succumb to the force of the water.

Apart from functional damage, high water pressure can be incredibly irritating! The term 'water hammer' is used to describe that loud banging noise when highly pressureized water encounters a valve. Changes in water pressure can cause your house's plumbing to creak and groan, and this can be a very disruptive experience.

Additionally, you're wasting water, a precious and pricy resource. The lower the amount of water pressure, the less water that flows out of taps, showers, and other home water outlets. If the average home could operate at the maximum recommended water pressure, the homeowner would save between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons of water annually, a savings reflected in the water bill.

Failing to address a high water pressure issue could lead to even more damage to your plumbing and appliances, not to mention high water bills, all of which can put a dent in your wallet.