



Washington County Service Authority

Failure to have a functional Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) in place may result in damage to your household plumbing or it may cause your water heater to leak or vent steam which may injure persons who come in contact with it. Pressure Reducing Valves are required by County Building Code and WCSA Rules and Regulations.



WHAT IS A PRV?

A Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) is a device installed in the plumbing of homes to regulate water pressure. The purpose of a PRV is to reduce incoming water pressure from WCSA's water mains to a pressure that is safe for a home's plumbing system. The PRV provides water pressure consistency throughout the home. PRV's are also a water conservation tool. By avoiding higher than required pressure, water is conserved. The PRV mentioned here is not to be confused with a pressure *relief* valve, a component of your water heater.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The typical residential PRV is a bell-shaped device with a screw and bolt on the top of it. A typical PRV is pictured above.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When line pressure increases, a diaphragm pushes against a pre-set pressure spring, which is compressed. Flow is then diverted through the valve.

WHERE DOES IT GO?

The PRV can be installed at the water service entry point to the home or on the water service line outside the home on the customer's side of the meter. Consult a plumber to determine the best option for your home.

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 for no apparent reason, or a banging or high pitched whistling sound coming from the pipes, usually when the water is being turned off. PRV's 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. Consult a plumber to ensure your PRV is in good working order.

WILL WCSA REPAIR OR REPLACE MY PRV?

No. The PRV is part of the home's plumbing and is owned by the homeowner. A new PRV can be purchased at most hardware or home supply stores. Another option is to contact a plumber to have a new PRV installed.