

Water Pressure in the Home

A good, reliable source of water is essential for quality of life, proper hygiene and fire protection. The Clarksville Water Department is committed to delivering safe and reliable water to the community at a minimum pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) as required by state law. Pressure throughout the water distribution system during normal operating conditions is maintained using elevated storage tanks and water booster stations.

Water pressure varies in different parts of the city depending upon location, elevation and demand. The City of Clarksville plumbing code requires property owners to install and maintain water pressure regulators on their properties located in high pressure areas. High pressure is defined as pressure exceeding 80 psi. Please consult with a professional plumber for installation or repairs.

You may request the pressure be checked by calling the water distribution office at **(931) 553-2497** if you experience a water pressure problem. A city employee will check the water pressure at the nearest fire hydrant to the home, at the water meter if possible and on an outside faucet. The findings will be reported to you.

Please keep in mind that water pressure normally fluctuates +/- 10 psi. If the water pressure in your neighborhood is found to be normal, then the pressure problem is most likely the result of a plumbing system problem on your property. Consult with a professional plumber to locate the pressure problem.

Commonly Asked Questions

We hope you find the following list of commonly asked water pressure questions helpful. If you have additional questions, please call a local plumber or our water distribution office at (931) 553-2497.

Low Water Pressure

Q. Low water pressure at one faucet?

A. A clogged water faucet aerator can slow the flow. Remove the aerator from the faucet, clean it, and reinstall it.

Q. Low water pressure on hot water only?

A. Consult with a plumber.

Q. Low water pressure throughout the house?

- A. *Recently added products like water softeners or filters may reduce water pressure. These items may also affect water pressure if they need to be serviced.*
- A. *If you have a pressure reducing valve (PRV) installed to protect your plumbing, it may need adjusting. Most PRVs are installed after the water meter and before the water heater. Talk to a plumber before adjusting it.*
- A. *Customer's main water valve may not be completely open.*
- A. *If you live in an apartment or condominium or have a business that shares a water meter with others, your neighbors may have increased their water use resulting in an overall decrease in pressure.*
- A. *If your water pressure suddenly drops to almost nothing ... it is could be a result of a broken water line. Call (931) 645-7400 to report sudden drops in pressure.*



Sample of Pressure Reducing
Reducing Valve (PRV)

High Water Pressure

Water pressure higher than 80 psi may result in homes located near a geographically low point, such as a creek. Homes located near water booster stations may also experience high water pressure. Clarksville Gas and Water cannot alleviate high water pressure, however a water pressure reducing valve (PRV) installed in the home or on the property can help and it can also help protect your plumbing.

A PRV reduces the water pressure coming into your home in much the same way that a surge protector protects your computer or television. Please consult with a licensed plumber who can assess your current plumbing system and recommend whether or not a PRV is needed.

The most common cause of a sudden increase in water pressure is a faulty pressure regulator. The pressure regulator may need adjusting or replaced. You may want to contact a plumbing professional to inspect the regulator.

Symptoms of high pressure may include:

- "Clanging" or "rattling" pipes when a faucet, dishwasher or washing machine shuts off.
- Water heater pressure relief valve malfunctions
- Reoccurring leaks

Q. Where does my responsibility begin and the Clarksville Gas and Water department's end?

A. *The property owner maintains the water pipe from the customer side of the meter yoke to building. The property owner is responsible for all pipes and fixtures in the buildings.*

Q. How much does a PRV cost?

A. *The cost of a PRV assessment, adjustment, and/or installation varies. Remember it's always a good idea to get more than one price quote. Pressure reducing valves, like all plumbing, have a lifespan and will need to be replaced in the future.*

Q. Who can assess my water pressure, plumbing and possibly install or adjust the pressure reducing valve (PRV)?

A. *A licensed plumber should perform the assessment, adjustment and/or installation. You can find a list of licensed plumbers in the yellow pages of the telephone directory. It is always best to check with the Better Business Bureau.*

Q. What if I already have a PRV?

A. *Customers who already have a pressure reducing valve on their plumbing should have it inspected by a licensed plumber to ensure that it is in proper working condition. Pressure reducing valves, like all plumbing, have a lifespan and will need to be replaced periodically.*