



Helpful Hints for Property Owners Regarding High Water Pressure

DC Water is planning to improve water service to your area. The pressure will increase by approximately 22 pounds per square inch (psi). Therefore, included here is helpful information for property owners who, along with enjoying the benefits of higher water pressure, may experience some of the following plumbing problems the increased pressure might cause.

What is considered to be high water pressure?

High water pressure is normally defined as water pressure in a building that exceeds 80 psi. According to the District of Columbia Plumbing Code, if water pressure exceeds 80 psi, a pressure reducing valve (also known as a PRV) must be installed.

EXAMPLES OF PRESSURE REDUCING VALVES (PRV)



What happens if water pressure is too high?

Some potential effects of high water pressure include:

- Noisy pipes, or water hammer, especially when opening or closing faucets
- Dripping faucets
- Leaks in other parts of indoor plumbing

What does a PRV installation involve?

A PRV is installed inside of the building where the water service line enters the building near the shut-off valve. The PRV must be installed at an accessible location to allow for repair or removal. In the District of Columbia, a PRV can only be installed by a plumber licensed to work in the District.

How do I know if I need a PRV?

DC Water has identified properties that will experience water pressures greater than 80 psi. Each of those homeowners have been notified and asked to participate in the PRV installation program.

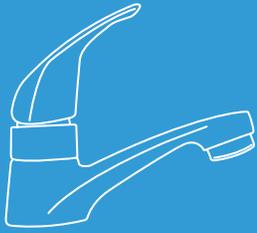
Who will pay for the PRV installation?

DC Water will pay for installation of the PRV. The work will be performed by a DC Water contracted licensed plumber. There will be no cost to the property owner.

How can customers get their plumbing ready for higher water pressure?

- Check for corroded areas on your water heater or for leaks. Corroded areas may leak with increased water pressure.
- Tighten any loose connections in household plumbing.
- Replace any old or faulty valves, fittings, or hoses on pipes or appliances.
- Clean aerators located at the tip of your faucets as increased pressure may cause additional debris to collect in the aerator, making it seem that pressure is too low. (See instructions on the back.)

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Will there be a warranty on the PRV installation?

The manufacturer's warranty will apply. Upon completion of the PRV installation, the contractor will provide the homeowner with manufacturer's operations, maintenance, and warranty information.

Will there be an increase in my water bill?

It is possible that the increase in pressure will cause an increase in water consumption (perhaps up to 10% more) and your bill. Therefore, water conservation is suggested.

Simple tips:

- Make sure to use water-saving aerators on all faucets.
- Install efficient showerheads, dishwashers, and other appliances.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Only run your dishwasher and washing machine when full.
- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth.
- Products with the EPA WaterSense Label have been certified to be 20 percent more efficient than the average product.

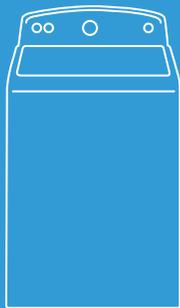


More information on DCWater's water conservation program is available at dcwater.com/water-conservation

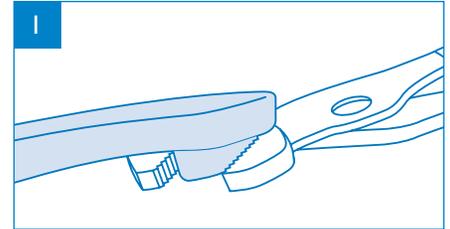
What do I do if there is a plumbing failure?

Know where your main shut-off valve is located and how to shut off the water. Shut off the main water valve to prevent flooding. Contact a licensed plumber immediately. Ensure all members of the household know how to operate the shut-off valve.

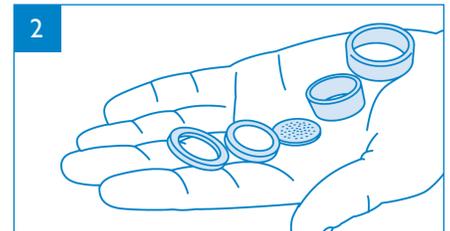
For more information on this project, please call (202) 787-4065 (weekdays, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) or send an email to pzip2ndhigh@dcwater.com. You may also visit our project website at dcwater.com/pzip2ndhigh.



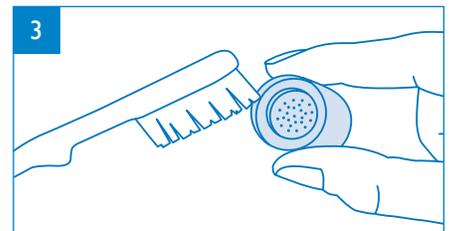
HOW TO CLEAN FAUCET AERATORS



Dry and wrap the aerator with masking tape to protect the finish. Adjust pliers to fit comfortably over the aerator and twist the aerator counterclockwise to loosen.



Finish unscrewing the aerator by hand then gently separate its components with your finger. Be careful to lay out pieces in the order they fit together and in the correct up/down orientation.



Clean parts with white vinegar and a toothbrush. Soften mineral deposits by soaking overnight in the vinegar. Replace the aerator if parts are damaged or difficult to clean. Aerators can be found at your local hardware store.



Reassemble the aerator exactly as it came apart and hand-tighten it onto the faucet. Remove the tape.