



## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE YOUR WATER PRESSURE

### **Water Pressure Problems**

If you are experiencing low or high water pressure, there are a few things that you can check to see if the pressure problem is in your household pipelines.

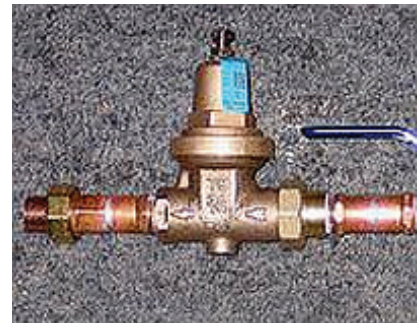
First, check the pressure/flow at your outside hose bib, usually located in the front of your home. If you are getting good flow at the hose bib, the problem may be isolated inside your home. If the problem appears only on kitchen and bathroom sink taps, make sure the faucet screens are free of accumulated hard water deposits or sediment. If all taps are affected, make sure your main shut-off valve is fully opened and your pressure regulating valve, if you have one, is operating properly. If you have a water conditioning system (softener, etc.) verify that it is operating properly.

If there is very little pressure and flow from the hose bib, check your gate valve that is located on the standpipe to make sure it is turned on all the way. If your gate valve is on all the way, your pressure regulator may need to be adjusted or replaced. This pressure regulator is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain.

### **Water Pressure Regulators for Residential Use**

New residential plumbing codes usually require a pressure regulator be installed. Although most pressure regulators are adjustable, they are normally set at a pressure between 50 and 70 psi which is considered normal pressures for residential uses. Regulators are typically installed with the initial construction of the home and maintained by the property owner. Regulators are always located above ground, usually near where the plumbing enters the house.

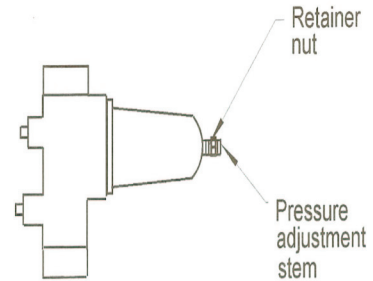
The pressure regulator is a bell-shaped device and is typically installed on the inlet pipe, next to the hose bib and house valve. The regulators are preset by the manufacturer at about 45 - 55 psi., and areas with low pressures may be negatively impacted with this setting. Although in most cases, they do not need to be adjusted. Please note that incorrectly adjusting the regulator could cause water pressure that is too low or too high inside the home. We recommend you have a qualified plumber make adjustments to the pressure regulator.



In an effort to aid you in your water pressure problems this information is being provided to help you make adjustments to the water pressure regulator in your home (if equipped). This device will not increase water pressure above the operating pressure of the city maintained water main.

These are generalized instructions actual adjustment procedures may vary depending on the type and model of the pressure regulator in you home. To assure accurate adjustments are made please refer to the literature that is provided by the manufacturer of the regulator.

To increase the pressure down stream of the pressure regulator loosen the Retainer/Lock Nut on the stem, then rotate the Pressure Adjustment Stem clockwise to increase the pressure and counter clockwise to reduce the pressure. A pressure gauge connected down stream of the regulator can be used to verify an increase or decrease in pressure. Another method to verify the change in pressure is to set a lawn sprinkler in the yard and view the effect of adjusting the pressure regulator.



In some cases the internal components of the pressure regulator may need to be cleaned, to perform this procedure please refer to the manufactures recommended maintenance instructions or contact a licensed plumber. If you chose to perform maintenance on the pressure regulator such as cleaning of the internal seats and screens be sure to shut the water off before the regulator before you proceed.

The adjustment and or cleaning of the screen of the pressure regulator may or may not increase the pressure within your home.

NOTE: The City of O'Fallon assumes no responsibility for the improper adjustment of your pressure regulator. Improper adjustment may cause damage to the interior plumbing and or fixtures within your home. This brochure has been provided for informational purposes only and if questions arise as to how to properly adjust the pressure regulator a licensed plumber or the manufacture of the device should be contacted for recommended adjustment procedures.