

FAQ: Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)

What is a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)?

A pressure reducing valve (PRV) is installed in the plumbing of homes and commercial buildings to regulate water pressure. They reduce incoming water pressure from public water mains to a pressure that is safe for a customer's plumbing system.



a typical pressure reducing valve

Why do I need a PRV?

Homes built in geographic low points or near a water pumping station may experience higher-than-normal water pressure. Sustained pressure that exceeds 80 psi can damage on-site plumbing systems and appliances. A PRV can prevent potential damage from occurring.

How do I know if my home has a PRV?

Most homes built in North Carolina prior to 2007 do not have PRVs. Prior to 2007, the NC Plumbing Code* did not require PRVs to be installed in buildings where water pressure exceeds 80 psi.

If you are unsure if you have a PRV installed at your home, you can usually locate it along your water line just after the line comes into your home and after the water shut off valve.

*The North Carolina Plumbing Code, Chapter 6, Section 604.8 and 607.3

What do I need to do to install a PRV?

If you have not already installed a PRV in your home, we recommend you consider having a licensed plumber install one to ensure that your home's piping and appliances operate under a safe, moderate, but satisfactory pressure.

Does a PRV need maintenance?

If your home does have a PRV installed, generally accepted plumbing practices recommend having a licensed plumber check it every year and replacing it every 3-5 years, as its parts will deteriorate.

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