

Protecting Your Home's Plumbing with a Pressure Reducing Valve

The Neah Kah Nie Water District delivers clean, reliable drinking water with the use of pumps for treating and storing the water, and gravity for distribution. Our water is treated then pumped to our holding tank on Neahkahnie Mountain. Because our water comes from higher elevations, water pressure naturally varies throughout the district. Homes at lower elevations may experience higher water pressure than homes at higher elevations, and pressure can also fluctuate as system demands change.

For this reason, the District strongly recommends that every home have a [pressure reducing valve \(PRV\)](#). A PRV is a relatively inexpensive plumbing item. WHERE should the PRV be located? A PRV should be installed between the water meter and the house inlet. Water that enters the valve from the main is constricted within the valve body and sent through the inner chamber. Even if the water pressure fluctuates, the pressure reducing valve maintains a constant flow of water at a functional pressure.

A properly functioning PRV helps:

- Protect household plumbing, fixtures, and appliances from excessive water pressure.
- Reduce the likelihood of leaks and premature wear on water heaters, washing machines, dishwashers, ice makers, and other water-using appliances.
- Provide more consistent water pressure throughout your home.
- Help conserve water by reducing unnecessary flow from faucets and fixtures.

If you're unsure whether your home has a PRV, or if you've noticed unusually high water pressure, banging pipes, leaking fixtures, or frequent appliance failures, it may be worthwhile to [have a licensed plumber inspect your plumbing system](#). Many PRVs have a service life of approximately 10 to 20 years and may require adjustment or replacement over time.

In Oregon, public water systems are regulated by the Oregon Health Authority, which requires a minimum static water pressure of 20 psi at all points within the distribution system; this is especially important for firefighting functions. Normal household pressure is generally between 45 psi and 80 psi to ensure proper functioning.

Our goal is to provide safe, reliable water service while helping customers protect their homes and plumbing investments.