

Household Water Pressure Regulators Questions and Answers

This document addresses frequently asked questions about household water pressure regulators. For more information contact – Arkansas Department of Health Plumbing Division at 1-800-462-0599 for information regarding Arkansas plumbing codes.

Q1: What is the function of a water regulator?

A1: A household water regulator reduces the water pressure from the public water main to a pressure that is usable by the customer and compatible with normal household plumbing and fixtures. It also helps prevent pressure surges from entering the household plumbing from the public main. High water pressure can result in dripping faucets and water pipes, and it can damage appliances.

Q2: How does a pressure regulator work?

A2: A pressure regulator is a spring-loaded valve that regulates pressure on the downstream (house) side of the valve. Altering the degree of spring compression changes the downstream pressure.

Q3: Where should the pressure regulator be installed?

A3: The pressure regulator is usually installed just downstream, (on the house side) of the water meter.

Q4: Are pressure regulators required?

A4: If your water pressure is above 75 PSI it is a state law. If it is below 75 PSI it is not required but is highly recommended to prevent high pressure-related damage to household plumbing, fixtures and equipment.

Q5: Why must I have a pressure regulator if the water pressure at the public main is low or moderate?

A5: There are two reasons: 1.) Most public water mains are supplied by pumps or pressure reducing valves. This equipment may produce temporary high pressure surges, which can be transmitted to household plumbing. A properly operating pressure regulator will help prevent these surges from entering your plumbing. 2.) Your municipality might increase the pressure in the main that supplies your house.

Q6: Who is responsible for installing and maintaining the pressure regulator?

A6: The property owner is responsible for installing and maintaining the pressure regulator.

The Water Company is responsible to supply water to the household meter, anything from the meter to the household is the homeowners responsibility. The Water Company is not responsible for damages incurred from the meter to the house.