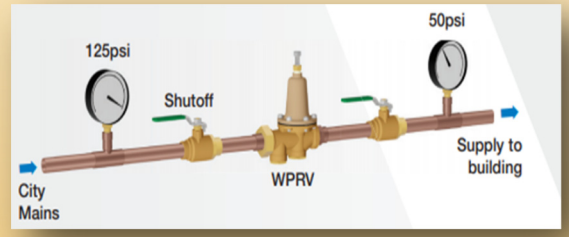
What is a Pressure Reducing Valve?

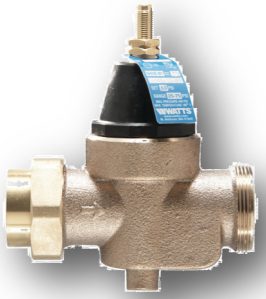
Pressure reducing valves are devices that work directly to slow down the pressure of water flowing into your home. They are normally installed on the main water line next to the shut-off valve.

How does a Pressure Reducing Valve work?

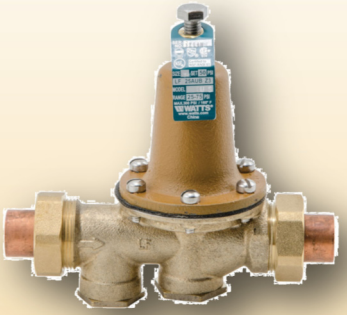
Water from the service line goes into the valve on the inlet side. As the water moves through the valve, it must pass through a spring and diaphragm which cause resistance and lowers pressure to a desired level as the water leaves the valve through the outlet side. The genius of PRV's is that they're set to regulate your water flow to a specific pressure. That means if there is a sudden spike in your area's municipal water pressure, the spring and diaphragm in the valve will tighten and you'll still have a consistent amount of pressure in your home.



Types of Pressure Reducing Valves



3/4" Watts LFN45BM1-U
Adjustable Operating Range 25 to 75 PSI
Max Pressure - 400 PSI
Average Cost $65.00
Life Expectancy - 5 Years
Made from Brass and Plastic



3/4" Watts LF25AUB-Z3
Adjustable Operating Range 25 to 75 PSI
Max Pressure—300 PSI
Average Cost $129
Life Expectancy - 15 Years
Made from all Brass and Stainless
Recommended by HCWA

Who maintains the Pressure Reducing Valve?

The PRV is maintained by the home owner. It is the home owners' responsibility to make sure the PRV is working properly and adjusted to their systems needs.

Why Pressure Matters

Every fixture, appliance and pipe in your home was built to withstand a certain level of water pressure, typically between 60-80 psi. Shower heads, toilets, faucets, appliances, water heaters and pipe joints can all start to wear down and eventually malfunction if they're constantly subjected to high pressures.

The bottom line? High pressure is expensive. Not only do you have to worry about replacing fixtures and appliances more often, you run the risk of small leaks forming in hard-to-detect places. Those small leaks can lead to structural water damage and black mold.