

What is a 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.

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, 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, it is usually located along your water line just after the line comes into your home and after the water shut off valve. A typical PRV is pictured here.



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 12 months and replacing it every three to five years because its parts will deteriorate.

Should you have any questions, please contact Union County Public Works Customer Service at pwcs@unioncountync.gov.

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

