

# Salmon Valley Water Company

## Water Pressure Considerations

By law, SVWC must provide no less than 25 Pounds per Square Inch (PSI) of water pressure to its customers. The average line pressure at most of SVWC's customers is around 90 PSI but it can be as low as 50 PSI to its customers that live high up on hills or as high as 120 PSI to those that live at the lowest points on the system. That is why it is very important that each of our customers install their own pressure reducing valve (PRV) on their side of the meter. SVWC does not recommend any specific water pressure to its customers as each customer has their own different needs and different internal plumbing. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) does recommend as a starting point 45-55 PSI. Too low a pressure will make showering difficult and may not provide enough water to the washing machine or dishwasher. Too great a pressure can damage water heaters and cause pipes to break.

How to measure your water pressure:

Make sure all water is turned off in and outside the house. Check your meter to be sure it is not moving. If it is moving chances are you have a leak and that's what is causing your low water pressure. Attach a PSI gauge (you can check one out from us) to an outside water faucet and check the pressure. If it's too low or too high the majority of the time it is a problem with your PRV but contact our office and we will check it out for you. SVWC staff cannot assist with checking or replacing your PRV if that device is suspected to be the cause of the pressure issue. You must replace the PRV at your own expense.

Under our current tariff structure you will not be charged for the first visit to check your water pressure in a 12 month period. Each additional visit you will be charged \$25.00 per visit.

Essentially most water pressure problems involve your PRV. PRV's almost always fail in one of two fashions. It completely shuts off the water or it allows full line pressure of the system to enter your house. If you suddenly have much stronger water pressure SVWC recommends that you turn your water off and call the office immediately!