

KNOCKING/VIBRATION NOISE FROM WATER PRESSURE

By Harold Raiford

Here's another home maintenance item that can save you BIG bucks. I had an extremely loud knocking/vibration noise in the house when the sprinkler or the washing machine started to fill (really any major user of water). I notice a reduction in the water pressure at the faucets and showers. I did some inquiries and found that this is all related to the "Pressure Reducing Valve". This valve reduces the street water pressure from around 120 psi to 70-80 psi after it passes thru the water meter. If you call a plumber, he's going to want to replace the "prv" Cost \$350. If you live in section 1 or 2, he is bound by city code to sell you an "expansion tank" for your hot water heater Cost around \$500. Try this remedy before you call a plumber, it worked for me. **BE AWARE, IF YOU SET THE PRESSURE UP TOO HIGH, YOU CAN CAUSE FAUCETS TO LEAK AND TOILETS TO RUN CONTINUOUSLY, NOT TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF RUPTURING A WATER LINE. PLEASE CALL ME AND I WILL LOAN YOU MY GAUGE AND EVEN SUPERVISE YOUR ADJUSTING THE PRESSURE TO 70 PSI.** You can locate this bell shaped valve in one of the green boxes on the house side of your water meter. I have a water pressure gauge to attached to an outdoor hose bib to measure your pressure and you are invited to borrow it. I located my PRV and the locking screws had either not been tighten or had loosened over the last 3 years. I had the fortune of have the washing machine filling when I adjusted mine and all I did was increase the pressure by turning the screw till the noise/vibration stopped. Whether you want to lower the water pressure for environmental reasons, or to make the water pressure higher, adjusting the water pressure in your house is actually not that complicated. Just follow the steps below.

Instructions

Difficulty: Moderate

Things You'll Need

- [screwdriver crescent wrench or pliers](#)

Step One

Find the pressure-reducing valve. Locate the supply line coming into your house. The line and valve may be in the basement, crawlspace or the water

meter box. The valve is brass and has a bell shape in the middle with a screw at the top of the bell. The screw is the adjuster.

Step Two

Loosen the lock nut by clamping it with the pliers or wrench and turning it counterclockwise as far as possible. This should make the screw adjuster accessible to turn.

Step Three

To increase the water pressure in your house, use the screwdriver to turn the screw clockwise incrementally.

Step Four

To decrease the water pressure, use the screwdriver to turn the screw counterclockwise incrementally.

Step Five

Test your pressure after each incremental turn by turning on faucets and shower heads and flushing toilets. It may seem like a pain to test your fixtures after each tiny adjustment, but these small adjustments can make a lot of difference in the pressure. **Too much pressure can damage your pipes and lead to leaks and water waste.**

Step Six

Once you have reached the proper water pressure (per SAWS 70-80 psi), tighten the lock nut once again and you're done.

If you need any advice or assistance, please call me (251-5843).

Typical *PRV

**Pressure Reducing Valve*

