



RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PRESSURE REGULATORS

What is a pressure regulator? A mechanical water fitting installed in the customer's water line to prevent excessive pressure. Installation of this device is recommended to protect your system from high pressure above the preset level of the regulator.

Why do pressure fluctuations in the water system exist? The Ramona Municipal Water District ("District") has a complex water system that encompasses a 75-square mile area. District staff is responsible for maintaining a multitude of facilities, including 20 storage tanks, 38 booster pumps, and 2 reservoirs. District facilities are equipped with over 100 control valves that regulate water flow into the general water system. Pressure fluctuations (or "spikes") occur on a normal basis in the water system, which can increase and decrease water pressure during normal flows, valve operations, and water usage. Pressure fluctuations can increase dramatically when mechanical equipment fails, or when valves are turned on or off too quickly. Signs of high pressure can include leaky faucets or valve leakage at the toilet.

How does a fluctuation in the water system affect me? Water pressure is measured by "pounds per square inch" or "psi." The District maintains a minimum psi of 20 at the customer's meter. A pressure spike in the system can increase (surge) water pressure over 200 psi. Most plumbing cannot sustain this increase in pressure, and will "blow out," causing flooding to the customer's home, if a pressure regulator is not in place.

What can the District do to eliminate these pressure surges? Nothing. All water systems have pressure fluctuations. The system moves millions of gallons of water a day, and as with any mechanical system, valves and other equipment can fail, no matter how well they are maintained.

Why do some customers choose not to have a pressure regulator? Some customers, particularly in high elevation or low-pressure zones, do not like using a pressure regulator because it can further restrict water pressure. The County Uniform Building Code does not require new homes to have a regulator under 80 psi, but the District highly recommends installation anyway, due to variable pressure fluctuations.

Is the District responsible for the damages, should a water pressure fluctuation damage my property? No. The customer is responsible for safeguarding the delivery system from the meter throughout the customer's private property. (RMWD Legislative Code § 7.04.070 states: "the District has no liability to any consumer for damages resulting from interruption of service, failure to deliver any particular quality or quantity of water, or fluctuations in the pressure at which water is delivered").

How can I tell if I have a pressure regulator? Pressure regulators are generally installed either at the house or right after the water meter. If you need assistance in determining whether or not you have a pressure regulator, you may call the District for assistance.

How can I get a pressure regulator installed if I do not have one? You can contact any licensed plumber to install a pressure regulator on your system.

In summary, the Ramona Municipal Water District endeavors to provide all customers with the best possible service. Our committed staff strives to eliminate problems in the system that could impact our customers. We ask that each customer protect their property by ensuring they have a properly installed and functioning pressure regulator on their system!

For additional information, please call our Systems staff at 789-1330.