



# Temescal Valley Water District

## HOUSEHOLD Water Pressure Simple Solutions

**Q.** Why is water pressure sometimes higher in early morning, and lower during the remainder of the day?

**A.** Neighborhood water use is less in the early morning hours, before families are awake using their washers, dishwashers, showering and watering their lawns. Landscape irrigation is normally designed to operate best at certain pressure levels. If you are experiencing problems with the effectiveness of your system, try changing the schedule.

**If I experience a severe drop in my water pressure for a lengthy period and cannot trace it to any of the tips provided, what should I do?**

**Q.** The water system depends on pressure to keep your water supply safe. You should report any **permanent** drop in water pressure to TVWD. By reporting the severe water pressure loss, you may help alleviate more severe problems such as those experienced in an undetected water line break. Emergencies may be reported to TVWD's 24-hour number 951-277-1414.

### Common Factors That Affect Water Pressure

- Elevation and pressure zone
- Faulty adjustment or blockage of the pressure regulator
- Water leak on the property
- Time of water use during the day
- Mineral Deposits inside pipes and hoses causing constricted flow
- Simultaneous household appliance water use
- Landscape irrigation scheduling, valve and sprinkler design
- Recent plumbing modifications
- Area emergency, construction or power outage



Customers experiencing water pressure problems, or with questions about their water pressure, during normal business hours (7:30-5:00 Monday-Thursday & 7:30-4:00 on Fridays) should call Temescal Valley Water District at 951-277-1414 or visit our website [www.Temescalvwd.com](http://www.Temescalvwd.com) for more information.



# Perplexed About Water Pressure Problems?

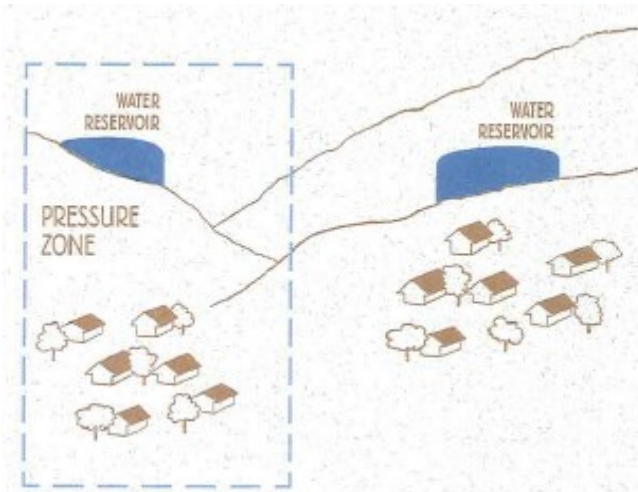
Temescal Valley Water District often receives calls from customers with water pressure questions. Here are answers to frequently asked questions:

## Q. What is water pressure?

A. Water pressure is created by the physical weight of water forcing its way throughout the distribution system to your tap. Gravity flow is the most efficient way to deliver water to your home.

## How can elevation affect water pressure?

Q. Water storage tanks are located at higher elevations to enable water to flow by gravity to neighborhood homes. Since elevations vary within Temescal Valley Water District service area, your water pressure zone may also vary. In flatter areas, water may even be pumped uphill to your home.

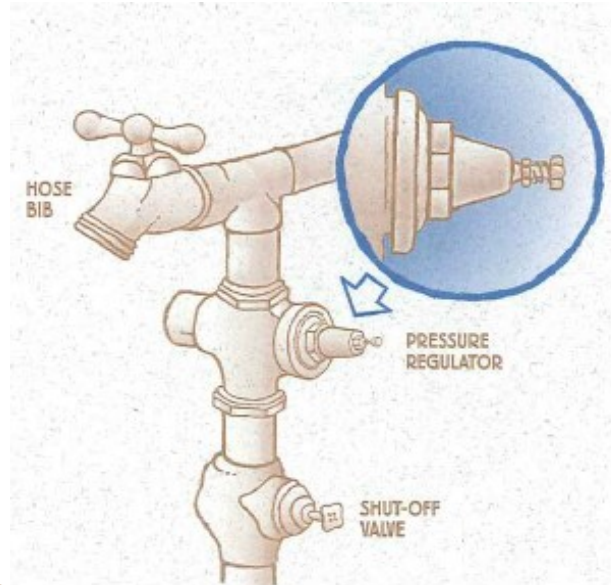


Normally, the tanks fill at night when water use is lowest. The full tanks are then better able to supply the high demand for water in the daytime. Sometimes, due to a fire emergency or construction in the area, high demand slows refilling of the tanks thus resulting in lowered water pressure.

Q. Why does each home have a pressure regulator?

A. Some areas may have too much water pressure which can cause the household appliances to malfunction. In those areas, pressure regulators are installed in compliance provides protection to your house from unexpected water pressure surges experienced in your neighborhood due to construction or normal water system maintenance.

\*(Check appliance manufacture's installation specifications for water pressure requirements.)



Q. Where is my pressure regulator?

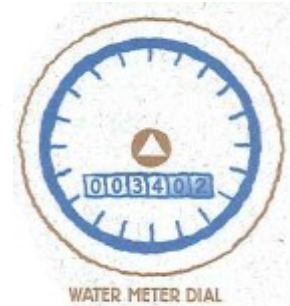
A. The regulator is located near the front of the house, often on the same inlet pipe as an outside water faucet. It can be on the side of the pipe or directly below a pipe joint. It looks like a saucer with an upside down cup on top. See diagram.

## Should I adjust the pressure regulator?

Q. Pressure regulators are preset at the factory at about 60 psi (pounds per square inch). In most instances, you should never need to adjust your pressure regulator. If you do, this could cause water pressure to be too high or too low on the inside of the house. You should always have a qualified plumber make adjustments.

Q. If I suspect a leak on my property, what should I do?

A. Water pressure loss can be caused by an undetected leak. Your water meter can help you detect a leak. Shut off all running water inside and outside your home. Locate your meter box, usually at the front of your property, and look at the triangle (called a tattle tale) in the center of the meter face. If the tattle tale is spinning, you may have a leak. You are responsible for fixing leaks on your side of the meter serving your property.



Q. How can mineral deposits affect my water pressure?

A. Mineral deposits can clog hose filters carrying water to your washer, shower heads, faucet aerators and landscaped irrigation parts. The deposits are not harmful and can be easily removed by soaking the filter or part in vinegar periodically.



## How can I check my water pressure?

Chances are, if you haven't noticed a problem with your water pressure, no action is needed. If you have experienced problems and would like to measure your water pressure, you can purchase a water pressure gauge at your local hardware store for around \$10. The device fits on an outdoor hose bib. Follow manufacturer's directions.

## What amount of pressure is considered normal?

Normal water pressure in TVWD service area averages 60 psi (pounds/square inch). Household appliances can function efficiently at 15 to 80 psi. \*Pressure varies by the elevation of your household and facilities that serve water in your area.

Q.  
A.