

It is a legitimate concern when you notice low water pressure in your home or business. Low water pressure can be caused by many things. Simple problems like the shut-off valve being closed or a faucet being blocked can cause low water pressure. More serious issues like plumbing blockage or water leaks decrease water pressure, too. There are multiple causes to low water pressure, but there are many ways that you can troubleshoot this problem. Cracks or damage to water pipes serving your house can cause water leaks. Water leaks can cause low water pressure because not all the water is making its way to your faucet. Some of it is leaking through the cracked or damaged pipe. Check your pipes for damage or leaks.

Checking Your Water Pressure

1. Determine if all locations within your home or business have low water pressure. Check various locations that have faucets.
 - The kitchen, bathroom, basement, outdoor faucets and hose hookups are common areas where fixture specific low water pressure can occur.
 - Run water in all faucets and showers in your home to identify if there is one or multiple problem areas or to determine that all locations have low water pressure.
 - Run both hot and cold water through all facets. If your water is low only on the hot water side, the issue is likely your hot water heater.
2. Check the faucet if you only have low water pressure in a particular location. Your problem might only affect one or two locations. In this case, the source of the low water pressure is likely a clogged facet or aerator.
 - Remove the end of the facet.
 - Examine your aerator. Check to make sure there is no debris or buildup.
 - If the aerator needs to be cleaned, soak it in water-vinegar solution. If that doesn't work, buy a replacement.
 - Turn the water on before you reinstall the aerator. If the water flow is not restored to normal, the source of low water pressure is likely not the specific facet, but an overall problem.
3. Look for other sources of low water pressure. If you can't pinpoint the cause of your low water pressure to just one or two facets in the house, it's probably an overall problem.
 - Check the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) and the main water shut off valve in your home. This is often the cause of low water pressure.
 - Look for water leaks, a leaking toilet or water service line can cause low water pressure.
 - Check your hot water heater. If you only have low water pressure when you are running hot water, it is likely due to your hot water heater.

Checking Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) and Main Water Shut-Off Valves

1. Look at the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV). Shaped like a bell, the PRV is usually located on the line where it enters the home or business.
 - If you have a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) installed to protect your plumbing, it may need adjusting. Most PRVs are installed after the water meter or before the water heater. Talk to a plumber before adjusting it.
 - Adjust it to see if it affects your overall water pressure. There will be a screw on the valve. To increase water pressure, tighten the adjusting screw by turning the screw clockwise. To decrease water pressure, loosen the adjusting screw by turning it counterclockwise. Always consult a plumber before adjusting the PRV.
 - Replacement may be necessary if the valve has failed or broken.
2. Check the main shut-off valve. This valve can influence water pressure, even if it has been turned slightly.
 - Most homes and buildings have a master shut-off valve. This is located near the PRV valve or in a separate box near the water meter.
 - This valve can shut off water to the entire home, and restrict flow if it is slightly closed.
 - Turn the valve so it is completely open.
3. Test your water pressure again using multiple faucets. If the problem is resolved, the source was likely the PRV valve or the main shut-off valve.
 - If you are still experiencing water pressure issues, you have a water leak. Water leaks are a common source of low water pressure in a house.
 - You should consult a plumber to fix a water leak or mineral buildup in your water lines.

Locating a Water Leak

1. Check the toilet in each bathroom. Running or leaking toilets are one of the most common sources of water leaks in a home.
 - Start by removing the lid from the tank of the toilet.
 - Put a few drops of food coloring or dye tablet into the tank.
 - Do not flush the toilet for at least one hour.
 - If color has leaked into the bowl, your toilet has a leak. This can usually be fixed by replacing the toilet flapper or filling mechanism.
2. Check for wet spots in the yard, basements and near water fixtures in the home. This can be a clear indication of a water leak.
 - In many cases you can hear a dripping sound in the case of a leak. Usually this requires a simple home repair.
 - You should also check the ground in the area outside your home from the meter to your house. If the area is wet, you may have a leak. Also, check around the meter and the

street, it could be a leak on the Town's side. Please contact Harrisburg's customer service.

High Water Pressure

If your home is in a geographically low point (near a creek) or near a water pumping facility, you may experience water pressure higher than 80 psi. Unfortunately, The Town of Harrisburg cannot alleviate high water pressure, but you may consider having a licensed plumber install a pressure-reducing valve at your home.

County building codes require pressure-reducing valves (PRVs) to be installed on new or remodeled residential plumbing where water pressure exceeds 80 psi.

A PRV reduces the water pressure coming into your home, if needed, to protect your plumbing much the same way that a surge protector protects your computer or television. A licensed plumber can assess your current plumbing system and recommend whether a PRV is needed for your home.

Discolored Water

1. If you experience cloudy or discolored water please follow these steps.
 - Run cold water from faucets.
 - Flush cold water from a bathtub faucet.
 - If water does not clear up after a few minutes, remove and clean faucet aerators.
 - If discoloration continues please contact Harrisburg's customer service.