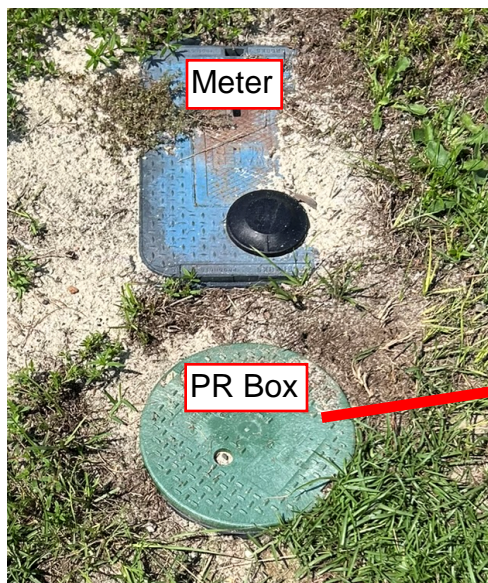


# How to Adjust a Water Pressure Regulator



Typical Meter and PR Box Setup



Pressure Regulator (PR) Valve

## Tools you will need: Wrench or pliers and a screwdriver

If you notice a problem with the water pressure in your home, it could mean that you have to make a few adjustments to the water pressure regulator. If you have one and it is not adjusted properly, you could easily have either too much or too little pressure in your faucet or shower. With the right tools, you will be able to adjust the water pressure regulator by yourself instead of calling in a plumber. It is not necessary to turn off the water supply to adjust a pressure regulator.

### Step 1 – Locate the Water Meter

The first step is to locate the water meter that provides water to your house. The water meter is generally installed at the edge of your property near the road.

### Step 2 – Find the Valve

Once you have found the water meter, the pressure regulator will be installed in a round irrigation valve box just outside of the meter box (usually in the direction towards the house). The valve is made of brass and has a bellshaped midsection with a medium-sized screw at the tip (similar to the photo above). Make sure that your supply line has sufficient pressure before adjusting the pressure valve itself.

### **Step 3 – Adjust the Screw**

Now that you have located the valve and the screw, you need to loosen the locknut all the way with the wrench or pliers. The screw is your adjuster and it can be maneuvered only by loosening the locknut.

As you tighten the screw, the water pressure will become greater and as you loosen it, the water pressure will lessen, so turn the screw clockwise to increase the pressure, or turn it counterclockwise to decrease the pressure. Do not be too hasty. You need to adjust the screw little by little, in slow increments, and check the result each time you tighten or loosen it. If the water pressure is too high, it could result in leaks and toilets running all the time.

### **Step 4 – Check the Pressure**

Once you have adjusted the screw, the water pressure should be regulated. Check the faucets in the house to see if there is a change in the pressure compared to before. Also, once you have successfully adjusted the pressure valve, make sure there are no problems with leaks.

If you find that there is no significant improvement after adjusting the pressure valve, your valve might be faulty and will need to be replaced. Changing a valve can be a bit challenging, so it is usually best to seek help from an experienced, professional plumber.

If the steps above do not resolve an issue with low or high pressure, then the regulator may have failed and needs to be repaired or replaced. On average, pressure regulators last about 10-15 years. Like any other piece of equipment, the lifespan can vary. Indications that a pressure regulator is or has failed include sudden increase or decrease of pressure or fluctuating pressure. These regulators may be purchased wherever plumbing supplies are sold. If you are unsure whether the regulator needs to be replaced, or how to properly repair or replace one, you may need to consult a professional or a plumber.