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**Low Water Pressure ?**

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## **Water Pressure Solutions**

*By: Patrick Breen*

There are a few basic questions I routinely encounter when doing a general home inspection, and one of those questions often regards the properties water pressure. No one wants to wait for their turn to take a shower, or have to deal with a dribble of water when more than one system is being activated, and there lies the problem.

Municipalities have a minimum static pressure of 40 pounds per square inch (PSI) that they have to provide residential structures. That pressure varies depending on what is being used within the home, as well as on how much is being called upon within your neighborhood. For these reasons the common range the water department is required to provide is 40 to 60 PSI. These are standards and guidelines, but often the household static pressure is above 60 PSI and is more than adequate for an average sized home.

Even though you might find your water pressure falls within these guidelines, your fluctuating pressure, family needs, or property size might require a higher, more consistent water flow. Reasons vary but generally it comes down to three issues: multiple bathrooms being used at the same time; you have a multi-story structure that has to send water up to a third level; or you have a large sprinkler system. Whatever your reason for needing more consistent pressure - there is a solution to make it happen.

The most common approach is to implement systems used for private wells. You either install a pressure tank, a pressure pump, or both. If your sprinkler system is the culprit then consider connecting a pressure or booster pump directly to the line servicing the sprinkler system. With the pump in place every time the sprinkler calls for water the pump is automatically activated to provide all the pressure needed while your in-house use is never compromised.

If you find your water pressure, or shower temperature, fluctuates every time someone flushes the toilet then you might want to install a pressure tank. Depending on your needs, or flow rates, the tank can range from as small as 2 gallons to over 100 gallons in size. A large tank would service the entire property while a small tank might just service a cold water line to a bathroom toilet.

These tanks are fairly simple in design and consist of a rubber bladder inside a metal container. The bladder fills with water and is slightly smaller in size allowing the excess space within the tank to be pressurized. Now what you have is a reservoir of water under pressure ready to service your needs.

If you have low pressure servicing a large structure and a family that needs three showers running at one time you might need to install both a booster pump as well as a pressure tank. Whatever your needs may be rest assure that your local hardware or plumbing professional will be able to help in determining what will work best for you.