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High Water Pressure Can Cause Damage to Connected Appliances & Faucets

Low water pressure in a household's water supply lines is annoying at best. But many homeowners don't realize that it's opposite – high water pressure can actually be detrimental to their home's fixture lines, connected appliances, faucets as well as toilet and shower valves. [Aqueduct Plumbing](#) technicians' workings in the area have identified high water pressure as the contributing cause of complaints of homeowners in Granville, Newark and Pataskala.

The telltale signs of high water pressure include harsh showers, faucets that drip, toilet fill valves frequently on and off or hammering noises coming from inside pipes. Water hammer happens when flow – such as from a dishwasher, washing machine or hand faucet – is turned off suddenly. A single hammer or banging noise is created when the surge of water through the pipes slams to a stop.

Ideal static pressure, the volume and weight of the water at rest, is between 40 to 60 psi (pounds per square inch). Over time, excessive water pressure of above 80 psi can cause faucet gaskets, toilet valves and other appliances connected to the plumbing to wear prematurely, sometimes in as little as a few months. Even more serious is high water pressure's ability to cause hoses and supply lines to burst.

The problem can sometimes be solved simply by adjusting an existing pressure reducing valve or by having one installed by a [licensed plumber](#). Another solution might be a water hammer arrester. Commonly installed in newer homes, water hammer arrestors are air-filled chambers connected to the plumbing that dissipates high-velocity water flow before it reaches fixtures. For those considering new construction, problems due to excessive water pressure can usually be avoided altogether by having larger water supply lines (for example, ¾-inch pipe as opposed to ½ inch) installed closer to fixture groups. Upsizing supply lines later are an involved process that should be avoided if possible.

Homeowners who suspect they may have high water pressure can take a few simple steps toward a self-diagnosis. If your water source is a well, check the water pressure meter or buy one from your local hardware store to make sure it's within an acceptable range. Those on a public water system can check with their neighbors to see if they are experiencing similar problems. However, this is not a sure-fire indicator as differences in pressure reducer valves and the pressure in main lines can result in variances in pressure even between neighboring houses.

To be sure, consult a [licensed plumber](#) for a professional diagnosis. Call Anthony of Aqueduct Plumbing at 740-587-7191 to make an appointment for a service call with one of their technicians.

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