The More You Know

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Is The Pressure Just Too Much?

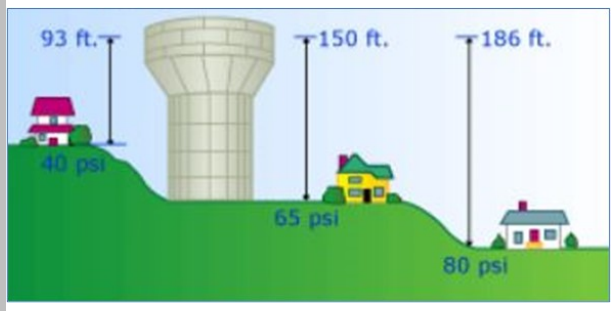
Did You Know… When designing plumbing systems, systems designers and pump manufacturers very often measure pressure in terms of **Feet of Head**. But what does Feet of Head mean?

Simply put, Feet of Head is the pressure at the bottom of any column of water. For every foot of elevation, there will be an increase in the pressure at the bottom of the column. Regardless of the diameter of the column, a column of water one foot high exerts roughly 0.433 psi measured at the bottom. So, 1 psi = 2.31 Feet of Head (or ft. head).

As an example, assume the need to move water up to the top of a 100’ building. In order to do that, a pump that produces 43.3 psig at the discharge is required. Of course, that will only get the water to the top of the column, at a bare trickle. If one then wants to brush their teeth, take a shower, or flush a toilet, additional pressure must be added to the original pressure.

Consider this problem from a different perspective… from your kitchen. How does the water come out of the

faucet with pressure? Chances are that you live somewhere near a water tower. Say the tower is



200’ high and your house is at its base. Voila! You have 200’ x 0.433 = 86.6 psig coming out your tap. Ever wonder why your neighbor down the hill has better water pressure than you do? It’s simply because he’s further below the level of the water in the tower.

For assistance with head pressures or the valves required for your system, visit **www.MilwaukeeValve.com** or contact your Milwaukee Valve customer service rep today. A complete listing, by territory, can be searched at our website, at **www.MilwaukeeValve.com/Find-Sales-Rep/**.

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