

Pressure Reduction

Pressure reduction is used in areas with excessively high pressure (generally in excess of 80 pounds per square inch) to reduce waste by simply reducing the amount of water delivered.

Pressure reduction in a service connection can reduce water used by 5 to 30 percent, depending on existing pressure levels. Despite potentially high levels of use reduction, total water use reductions will be low due to the limited number of applications. This program would be best considered for long-term, low-percentage reduction, average use goals.²⁰

Watershed Management

Watershed management is used to protect water supplies against contamination and overpumping and/or to maintain and increase water runoff to the source.

Techniques identified during the course of the New England River Basin Commission (NERBC) study include:

1. Evapotranspiration suppression: spraying vegetation in a watershed with a suppressant chemical to cover plants' pores;
2. Forestry management: thinning forests in watershed area to increase flows to source;
3. Zoning: limiting or prohibiting inappropriate land uses in the watershed area;
4. Purchase of surrounding watershed land: maintaining land under direct control; and
5. Subdivision regulations: requiring that development proceeds in a way that does not harm the watershed or recharge the area.²¹