

New Year's Resolutions



A New Year is approaching and this is the time of the year that everyone is thinking of resolutions. Here at BexarMet we take steps to improve water efficiency both indoors and outdoors. There are a number of simple ways to save water, and they all start with you. We have thought of a few resolutions and would like to share some of our favorites:

Indoors

- Resolve to find and fix leaks on a regular basis. Dripping faucets can waste 600 gallons a month and a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. This will save you money and preserve our water.
- Resolve to replace water-guzzling fixtures and appliances with water efficient counterparts. Not only will you preserve water, but some qualify for a rebate.
- Resolve to only reach for the laundry scoop when you have a full load. This could save you 600 gallons each month.
- Resolve to do one thing each day that will preserve water. Savings may be small, but they add up and every drop counts.
- Resolve to take shorter showers. Reducing your shower by one minute can save 2,000 gallons of water a year.

Outdoors

- Resolve to make sound decisions with plant material for your landscape in 2004. This applies to trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and turfgrass. Utilize plants recommended for this area. Match the plant to the site conditions, such as sun or shade. Read gardening books and magazines for our area and climate. Taking advice from another region on what to grow in our area is about as dependable as determining whether to take an umbrella with you based on the weather forecast for New York.
- Resolve to maintain your lawn effectively. Lawns are an important element in any landscape. Maintenance of the lawn requires mowing, fertilizing, and watering. Mowing at the proper height promotes a deeper root system that is more water efficient. Taller grass grows slower, acts as living mulch shading the ground. This reduces water evaporation from the soil. Adjust your lawnmower to the highest setting as the weather gets warmer. Fertilize in moderation in the spring and fall. Proper fertilization adds to efficient use of water. Applying fertilizer to the lawn at the proper time and in the proper amount can save you time and money by reduced mowing and watering. Water your lawn only as needed and according to ET (Evapotranspiration) recommendation. We will be offering those recommendations starting in April.
- Resolve to mulch, mulch, mulch. This will discourage weeds, conserve moisture, provide erosion control and help to maintain soil temperature. Mulch is a material that covers and insulates the soil without interfering with water and air absorption.
- Resolve to periodically check your sprinkler system. Adjust sprinklers so only your landscape gets watered-not the house, sidewalk or street. Check valves for leaks and keep sprinkler heads in good shape. Install a rain sensor to eliminate unnecessary watering.

- Resolve to garden with nature, using a minimum of pesticides, and/or herbicides. I will use them only when absolutely necessary, and then the least toxic. Read and understand all labels before purchasing and using them. Have the correct product for the plant disease or problem. Mix all chemicals according to label directions, use care when handling chemicals, dress appropriately, and consider the weather conditions. I will give Nature a chance this year.

We hope that these resolutions will get you on your way to being water efficient in 2004. Our resolve, at BexarMet, is to provide a continuous supply of reliable, high-quality water while providing extraordinary service. Come back and visit our website often. We have some exciting plans for the New Year.