**OUTDOOR TIPS**

* Use a **broom** to clean up outdoors. Using a hose to clean up outdoors washes dirt *and* harmful chemicals down storm drains and back into our watershed. Hosing also wastes clean fresh drinking water that all species need to survive. Instead use a broom, bag the waste, and dispose of it in a garbage can. 
* Use a **timer** and only water your lawn for 30 minutes twice a week (lawns in our area rarely require more water)… or “go golden” and let your grass go dormant during hot spells (it will “brown*”* but not die).
* Choose **drought-hardy** plants, and replace excess grass with “hard-scapes” such as rocks, gravel and/or decorative stones.
Note: City Counselor Jon Wolbers has said that during our hot dry summers he followed the tips, reduced his water usage, and his lawn still looks great!
* Set up **rain barrels** to water your indoor and outdoor plants. Your plants will thank you because rainwater is oxygen-filled, neutral in *ph*, free of salts, minerals and chlorine.
* Choose **child- and pet-friendly** fertilizers such as alfalfa pellets (yes, rabbit food) and leaving grass clippings on.
* **Refrain from using pesticides**, and, if you must, choose a day and time that is not windy.
* **Dispose of toxins** such as paint, oil and gas *properly* rather than pouring them down storm drains that often lead to fish-bearing streams.
* **Wash your car** on the grass or other permeable surface and use a sponge and a bucket, not a running hose.
* Make sure you always have a **nozzle on the end of your hose** and be careful not to water driveways, sidewalks, and the street.
* Don't use sprinklers as toys and water early in the mornings or in the evenings if possible (between 10pm – 10 am). OBEY City water restrictions! To reach Bylaw Enforcement, call the City of Williams Lake at 250-392-2311.

 **ADDITIONAL TIPS**

* **Drive less**, walk, bike or carpool to reduce urban runoff which water picks up toxins from the road, roofs and sidewalks and washes them down storm drains.
* Setup a **grey-water system** that re-uses water for flushing toilets and other activities that do not require “drinking water” quality.