

## Forrest City Water Utility

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# Alive With Pride

## Special Points of Interest

- The Many Uses of Water
- History of the Easter Egg
- Manager's Corner

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## The Many Uses of Water

Water is our most precious resource. Water is vital to life. Humans, plants, and animals are made up of mostly water. All living things would die if it weren't for water. We use water for drinking, washing, cleaning, cooking, and growing our food as well as many, many other things. The average American uses around 150-250 gallons of water daily. Even more water is used by industries to generate electricity, manufacture things, and transport people and goods.

Common household uses consume a lot of water. It may take between 30 and 40 gallons for one bath. The average toilet uses about 5 gallons of water per flush. It takes 20-40 gallons of water for

one shower. Washing machines use an average of 25 gallons per load. The kitchen sink takes roughly 20 gallons per day for preparing food and washing dishes. The bathroom sink, used for washing hands, shaving and brushing teeth, requires about 15 gallons per day. These numbers are estimated for the average household in America.

Much of our fresh water is also used outdoors for watering lawns, flower beds, and vegetable gardens, as well as washing our cars and filling swimming pools. We must be careful not to pollute the water that we use outside. Many people use chemicals on their lawns and gardens and then water them with pure water. The

water will wash the chemicals off of your plants and then run down a storm drain and go straight to the rivers and streams where fish make their homes. This kind of polluted water can kill fish and wildlife. We should always be mindful of whether or not we are polluting the water around us. We need to take care of our water, not abuse it. Every town and city, whether small or big, uses water. Cities use water for fire fighting, street cleaning, and watering public areas such as parks, grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers. Water is also used to fill public drinking fountains, including those at schools and libraries. All of the different businesses in your community also use water. Think about all



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## History of the Easter Egg

The ancient Egyptians, Persians, Phoenicians, and Hindus all believed the world began with an enormous egg, thus the egg as a symbol of new life has been around for eons. The particulars may vary, but most cultures around the world use the egg as a symbol of new

life and rebirth. A notation in the



household accounts of Edward I of England showed

an expenditure of eighteen pence for 450 eggs to be gold-leaved and colored for Easter gifts. The first book to mention Easter eggs by name was written five hundred years ago. Yet, a North African tribe that had become Christian much earlier in time had a custom of coloring eggs at

## Many Uses of Water cont.



the water that is used by restaurants, hospitals, laundries, dry cleaners, golf courses, hotels, car washes, beauty shops, barber shops, gas stations, and health clubs as well as all of the other businesses in town. These all add up to quite a big demand on our water supply. We need to try to think about how many people need to use water and conserve our water so that there is enough to go around.

The amount of water needed to run a farm is tremendous. When we think of water on a farm, we think of watering crops; but the amount of

water needed on a dairy farm is a huge amount also. Chickens, pigs, sheep, and all the other animals in a farmyard need drinking water to stay alive. Food must be grown for them to eat, and water is also required in the cooling systems used to keep production meat fresh. Vegetable and grain crops also require water. Water is used in spreading fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, which produce a greater crop yield, but can also contaminate the water. Most of the water used on farms is used for irrigation. Studies show that by using drip irrigation, farmers can conserve

up to 60% of the water that it would normally take to irrigate their crops using other systems of irrigation. It takes about 26 gallons of water to produce one ear of corn while it takes about 2000-2500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. Around 120 gallons of water is required to produce one egg. About 300 gallons of water is needed to produce one loaf of bread, and it takes about 12,000 gallons of water to grow a bushel of wheat. Believe it or not, about 1,400 gallons of water are used during the final production of one fast-food meal including a burger, fries, and a soft drink.

*If you have a water emergency after-hours, weekends or on holidays, please call us at 870.633.1366*

## History of the Easter egg cont.

Easter. Long hard winters often meant little food, and a fresh egg for Easter was quite a prize.

Later, Christians abstained from eating meat during the Lenten season prior to Easter. Easter was the first chance to enjoy eggs and after the long abstinence.



Some European children go from house to house begging for Easter eggs, much like Halloween trick-or-treaters. Called pace-egging, it comes from the old word for Easter, *Pasch*. Many old cultures also attributed the egg with great healing powers. It is interesting to

note that eggs play almost no part in the Easter celebrations of Mexico, South America, and Native American Indian cultures. Egg-rolling contests are a symbolic re-enactment of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb. The decoration of small leafy branches as Easter egg trees has become a popular custom in the United States since the 1990s.



## Manager's Corner

We want to continue to inform you, our customers of the importance of safe water to the individual health, the health of our families and the economic future of our community.

Safe drinking water has both a personal and community impact. Water treatment techniques have

almost eliminated diseases such as cholera and typhoid, and will protect us from new, and equally deadly, contaminants we face because of increased industrialization and use of chemicals.

Clean water affects the community because it means growth and eco-

nomics development can take place. Business won't locate where they can't be assured of clean water for commercial and industrial uses

Help us to grow and protect our water resources. Be Water Wise!!

W.H. Calvin Murdock,  
Utility Manager

Arkansas One Call



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



# ADEQ

ARKANSAS  
Department of Environmental Quality