



# Our History

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Our History



Want to talk to an expert?

A Story of Innovation and Change

1832

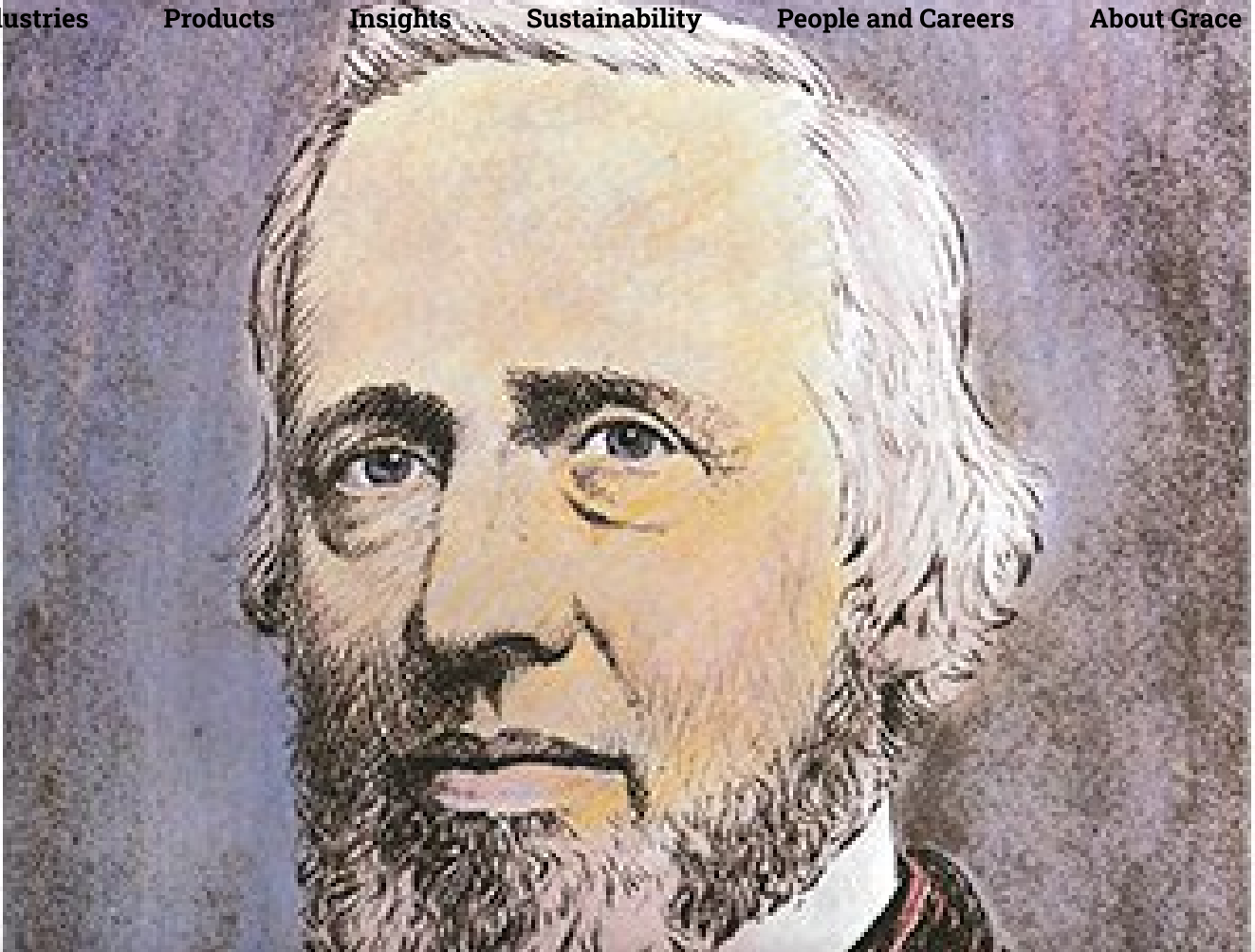
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W. R. Grace & Co. relocates to New York City and begins triangular trade with South America and Europe.



1872

W. R. Grace & Co. is formally chartered.

1880

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1899

W. R. Grace & Co. incorporates.

1900

Grace opens offices in Argentina.

1907

Joseph D. Grace becomes company president.

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## 1917

The Santa Ana is christened as the first of the Grace Line passenger ships. She and sister ships, Santa Elisa, Santa Teresa, Santa Rosa, and Santa Paula, all are drafted into war service to ferry troops for the next two years.



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## 1923

Davison Chemical Company begins selling silica gel.

## 1924

Davison introduces RANEY<sup>®</sup> brand nickel catalysts for organic synthesis and organic chemical production.

## 1928

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**Industries** Dewey & Almy entered the cement business by creating a process of creating cement additives. **Products** The advent of the beer can prompts Dewey & Almy's development of a new sealant that preserves purity and taste. **Insights** **Sustainability** **People and Careers** **About Grace**

1939

Leopold Ruzicka and Adolph Butenandt use RANEY® brand nickel catalysts in synthesizing male sex hormones from cholesterol, winning the Nobel prize in chemistry for their discovery.

1941

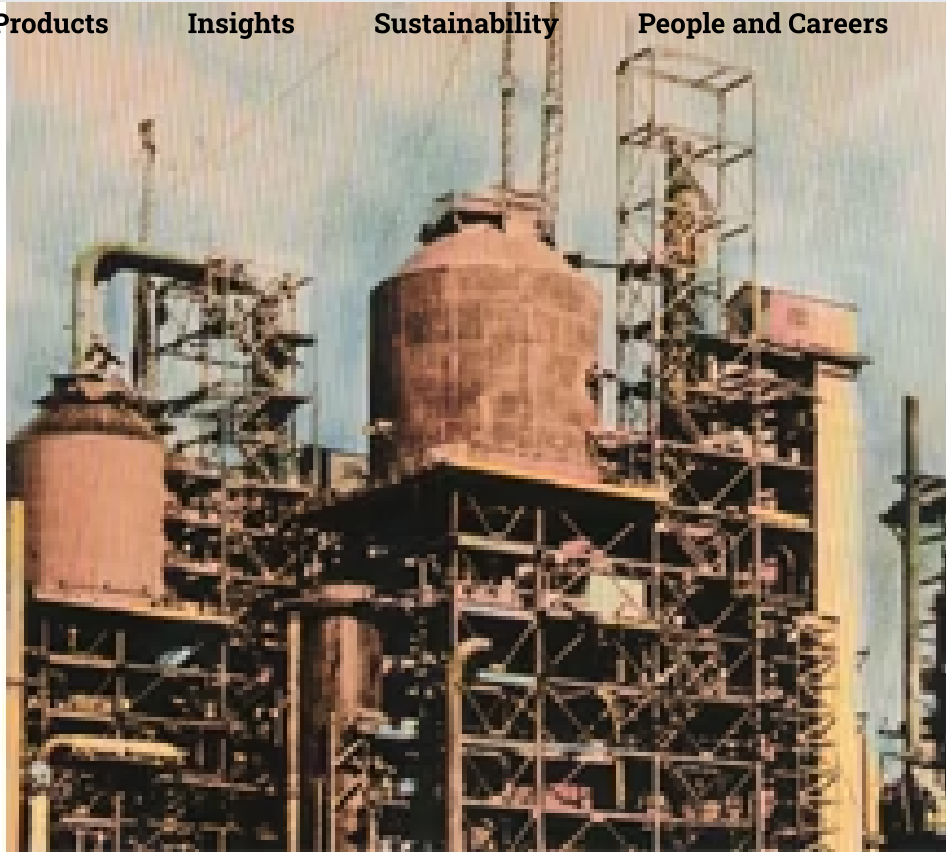
Responding to the needs of a world at war, Dewey & Almy find a synthetic substitute for natural rubber can and bottle sealants.



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1945

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**Industries** produce silicones. SYLO® silicones are still used for making coatings. **Products** **Insights** **Sustainability** **People and Careers** **About Grace**

1953

W. R. Grace & Co. lists on the New York Stock Exchange with ticker symbol GRA. Davison opens the Lake Charles, Louisiana plant for fluid cracking catalysts



1954

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## 1959

Grace opens offices in Mexico.

## 1960

Grace introduces Cryovac® Type L plastic shrink film to protect meats and poultry. Grace opens offices in Venezuela and Japan.



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Grace develops a breakthrough method of waterproofing with the introduction of BITUTHENE® waterproofing membrane, replacing paint-on waterproofing. Grace develops a new high-performance sealant when the world is introduced to twist-off caps. Grace opens offices in Hong Kong, India, and the Philippines.

## 1968

Grace introduces CRYOVAC® Market-Ready packaging for centrally processed beef. Grace introduces MONOKOTE® sprayed-on fireproofing, providing a durable alternative to low-density fireproofing to protect structural steel against the ravages of fire.

## 1969

Grace Construction Products is established in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Grace Line is sold.

## 1970

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## 1979

Grace introduces DAREX<sup>®</sup> Corrosion Inhibitor to prevent concrete deterioration in bridges, roadways, and buildings exposed to road salts and marine environments. Grace opens offices in Thailand.

## 1980

Grace introduces MAGNAPORE<sup>®</sup> catalysts for the production of high-density polyethylene plastics.

## 1983

Grace begins manufacturing fluid cracking catalysts in Europe.

## 1984

Grace revolutionizes modern cooking techniques with the introduction of Cryovac<sup>®</sup> cook-in bags for institutional-sized quantities of foods. Grace introduces Daramelt<sup>®</sup> and Darawave<sup>®</sup> container sealant systems for food,

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## 1987

Grace becomes the first wholly foreign-owned company to do business in The People's Republic of China with its can sealing plant in Shanghai. Grace introduces XP octane-enhancing fluid cracking catalysts for petroleum refiners.



## 1988

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## 1992

J. Peter Grace retires as CEO, a position he held for 48 years, making him the longest-serving CEO of a public company. J. P. Bolduc succeeds him as CEO.

## 1993

Grace introduces revolutionary oxygen-scavenging seals for beer bottle crowns worldwide to retain freshness and taste without preservatives. Grace builds its first construction products and container sealants plant in Indonesia.

## 1994

Grace begins manufacturing packaging materials in Russia.

## 1995

J. Peter Grace, company chairman, business leader, and philanthropist dies at age 82. Albert J. Costello joins Grace as president, chairman, and CEO. Grace acquires Carmix Construction Chemicals, expanding market.

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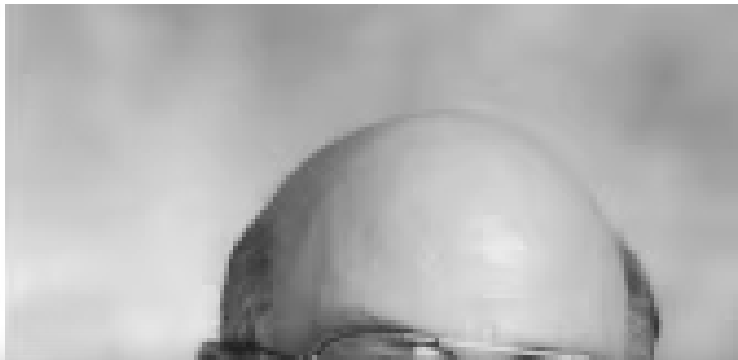
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Grace significantly improves its capital structure by completing a stock repurchase that returns 28 million shares of Grace common stock to the Company treasury. Grace announces plans to merge its Cryovac packaging business with Sealed Air Corporation in a tax-free transaction. Grace introduces Procor™ fluid-applied waterproofing, a liquid alternative to sheet membrane waterproofing.

## 1998

Grace merges its Cryovac packaging business with Sealed Air Corporation in a transaction valued at more than \$6 billion. The new Grace emerges as a global specialty chemicals company, focusing on catalysts and silica products, specialty construction chemicals and building materials, and container protection products. Paul J. Norris joins Grace as CEO.



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## 2000

Grace continues its successful bolt-on acquisition strategy with the Crosfield Group's hydroprocessing business, the International Protective Coatings firestop products and systems business, the LUDOX<sup>®</sup> colloidal silicas business, and the Hampshire Polymers business.

## 2001

W. R. Grace & Co. announces on April 2, 2001, that the Company voluntarily filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in response to a sharply increasing number of asbestos claims. This Chapter 11 filing includes 62 of Grace's domestic entities. None of the Company's foreign subsidiaries are included in this filing.

Grace Davison Catalysts enters into a joint venture, Advanced Refining Technologies LLC, for hydroprocessing catalysts with Chevron Products Company. Grace Davison Silicas acquires The Separations Group, as well as the precipitated silicas business of Akzo-PQ Silica.

## 2002

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## 2003

Fred Festa is named President and Chief Operating Officer of W. R. Grace & Co. in November 2003.

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The assets of Single-Site Catalysts, LLC, a supplier of organometallic catalysts

Flexit Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., an Indian chromatography company, through Grace subsidiary, Alltech Associates Applied Science Limited (UK).

Grace expands reach in China with the opening of a new office in Shanghai and a technical service center in Beijing.

Grace announces an agreement for the Kuwait Catalyst Company to manufacture Advanced Refining Technologies catalysts for the petroleum refining industry in the Arabian Gulf region.

## 2006

Grace opens a manufacturing facility in Tennessee to produce products for residential and commercial construction.

The company continues to grow in China and Eastern Europe with the opening of a new Discovery Sciences technical center in Shanghai and a marketing office in Moscow.

Grace acquires a catalyst components business and custom catalyst assets in order to expand existing polyolefin catalysts manufacturing capabilities.

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## 2009

Grace opens a Customer Centre of Excellence near Barcelona, Spain and a manufacturing facility in Chennai, India for the production of specialty chemicals used in commercial, infrastructure and residential construction.

## 2010

Grace announces it has targeted reducing the energy intensity of its operations by 20 percent per pound of production by 2017 (using 2007 as the base year to measure progress).

Grace acquires Wuhan Meilixin New Building Materials Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of waterproofing products located in China, and Synthetech, Inc., a manufacturer of fine chemicals specializing in organic synthesis, biocatalysis, and chiral technologies.

## 2011

ART expands manufacturing capacity with Kuwait Catalyst Company

Grace opens a cement additives and concrete admixtures facility near Delhi, India.

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Advanced Refining Technologies LLC (ART) signs an agreement with Chevron Lubricants Global (CLG) for the exclusive right to sell CLG's hydrocracking and lubes hydroprocessing catalysts to CLG's licensees and other petroleum refiners for unit refills.

Grace acquires Chemind Construction Products, a privately-held specialty manufacturer and distributor of waterproofing coatings technologies and materials for the design and construction industry, located in Brisbane, Australia.

Grace enters into a joint venture with Al Dahra Agricultural Company to build and operate the first fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) catalysts and additives plant in the Middle East.

Grace acquires the assets of the Polypropylene Licensing and Catalysts business of The Dow Chemical Company. The acquisition includes UNIPOL® Polypropylene Process Technology and Licensing.

## 2014

Grace's Joint Plan of Reorganization became effective February 3, marking the company's emergence from Chapter 11.

Grace opens a new LEED Silver Certified global headquarters building in Columbia, Maryland U.S.A.

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Hudson La Force introduces the Grace Value Model, a framework for creating and delivering value to customers, employees, and other stakeholders.

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## 2022

Bob Patel becomes Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2022, and in April 2023 is named President of Standard Industries.

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Ed Sparks becomes Chief Executive Officer in April 2020.

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