



ZURN ELKAY HISTORY

Zurn Elkay Water Solutions Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Since its founding in 1900, Zurn Elkay Water Solutions Corporation has grown into a trusted leader in water management, continuing to uphold our founder's entrepreneurial spirit while bringing our Sustainably Inspired® expertise to the industry's widest range of clean water solutions.

Over the 125 years, we've brought together leading brands like Wilkins, World Dryer, Hadrian, Just Manufacturing, Wade Drains and, most recently, Elkay. But our guiding principle—Simply Do the Right Thing—continues to guide us in everything we do.

Here's a look at how we evolved through the years:

1900: John A. Zurn, a 26-year-old from Erie, Pennsylvania, purchased discontinued patterns and tooling for a patented backwater valve and set up shop in his mother's barn.

1910: With partner Milton Rowley, John A. Zurn broadens his business by investing in a bronze pattern and tooling company, then adds Lake Erie Foundry for its resources and castings. They officially named the business J.A. Zurn Manufacturing Company.

1920: Elkay Manufacturing was founded in Chicago, Illinois, by Ellef Robarth, Leopold Katz and Leopold's son Louis, naming the company for the combination of Ellef's first name and the first letter of Katz. The trio specialized in sink and cabinet manufacturing.

1946: Zurn launched its first point drain, which quickly became a staple of its water solutions. Instead of simply solving for end use, Zurn engineered a product line that made installation easier for contractors.

1950: World Dryer was founded and introduced the Model A hand dryer in the U.S., setting the industry standard with its iconic look and establishing a foundation for continuous advances in technology and aesthetics.

1954: Zurn formed Zurn Canada as demand increased, spreading its mission of providing clean water solutions beyond the United States.

1961: Zurn becomes Zurn Industries and goes public, trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

1970: Elkay launched its first line of water coolers and seized a stronger-than-planned position in the market in just six months, solidifying their presence in the industry.



John A. Zurn
Photo courtesy Hagen History Center

- 1972:** Zurn acquired the 66-year-old Wilkins Regulator Company, another homegrown business known for quality and pioneering products.
- 1983:** Tom Warren and Keith McAlpine purchase the toilet partition division of Westeel Corporation. Inspired by the architectural marvel of Hadrian's Wall, they brand the new company Hadrian Manufacturing Inc.
- 1991:** Elkay acquired Halsey Taylor, moving its operations to Savanna, IL. The acquisition instantly made Elkay the largest manufacturer in the water cooler industry.
- 1999:** Elkay acquired EB Técnica Mexicana, the largest sink producer in Mexico. The move was a major strategic step in building Elkay's sink production and manufacturing worldwide.
- 2007:** Zurn is acquired by Rexnord Corporation, previously known as Chain Belt Company. After the acquisition Rexnord consisted of two main divisions: Process and Motion Control and Water Management.
- 2009:** Todd A. Adams was appointed CEO of Rexnord Corporation, after he spearheaded the acquisition of Zurn Industries and the creation of the company's Water Management Platform, nearly doubling the size of the business and laying the groundwork for the company's 2021 transformation into Zurn Water Solutions.
- 2010:** Elkay introduced the ezH2O bottle filling station, forever changing water delivery.
- 2014:** Zurn, as part of Rexnord, acquired Green Turtle for its patented grease interceptor systems, taking plumbing from inside the building to outside the walls and behind the scenes.
- 2016:** Zurn opens its first global showroom in Dubai, designed to optimize rapid order fulfillment and inventory replenishment for on-time customer delivery, marking a major milestone in Zurn's ability to serve customers in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.
- 2017:** Zurn acquired World Dryer, the leader in the commercial electric hand dryer market.
- 2020:** Zurn acquired Just Manufacturing, a leader in quality plumbing products and fixtures since 1933, and Hadrian, a leading manufacturer of washroom partitions and lockers.
- 2021:** Zurn became Zurn Water Solutions with the spinoff of its process motion control business and separation from Rexnord Corporation. With a newfound independence, Zurn Water Solutions became a 100 percent water-focused public company. This is the year the company also acquired industry leaders ATS GreaseWatch and Wade Drains.



2022: Zurn Water Solutions and Elkay agree to combine, bringing two titans of innovation together with shared mission and values to form Zurn Elkay Water Solutions, a leader in sustainable water solutions, uniting our wide array of leadership brands and sustainable business practices.

Today: Zurn Elkay Water Solutions is a global leader, uniting trusted brands with a shared core mission: providing sustainable, cost-effective and convenient water solutions. Our roots have guided us for 125 years and continue to inspire us as we keep building an exciting future. Together, we will continue to shape the future of Zurn Elkay Water Solutions Corporation.