

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY
Kensington Plant
Chicago, Ill.

S-W's Story of Progress

The Sherwin-Williams Co. was started in Cleveland, Ohio in 1866 by Henry A. Sherwin, who as a young man of 24, entered into partnership with Truman Dunham in the business of selling paint, oils, varnishes, glass, etc. wholesale and retail. This partnership was dissolved in 1870 when Mr. Williams joined Mr. Sherwin in partnership under the name Sherwin Williams & Company. Manufacture of paint was first undertaken in 1873. In 1875 the manufacture of tin cans was begun; this has since grown to a large plant here at Roseland, manufacturing all the tin cans the Company requires and some for the paint industry. The printing of labels and advertising material started in 1876. The Sherwin-Williams Co. entered the ready-mixed paint field in 1880. Our present plant here at Kensington started in 1888 when The Sherwin-Williams Co. purchased the Calumet Paint Co. from the Pullman Co.

The local plant now covers about 100 acres of ground and embodies 153 buildings with a floor space of one million and a quarter square feet and gives employment to some 2,400 men and women. In 1895 George Ford, in charge of the Company's first advertising, drew the "Cover The Earth" design, which so well depicts our paints being used all over the world today.

In 1895 manufacture was begun in Montreal, thus starting The Sherwin-Williams Co. of Canada. The manufacture of a complete line of varnishes was first undertaken in Cleveland in 1898. At the turn of the century the manufacturing facilities were extended to include linseed oil, leaded zinc, white lead, lithopone, dry colors, and insecticides. A wide range of paints, enamels, and varnish products were added to supply the householders, painters, and industrial consumers with materials required for protective and decorative coatings. Additional factories were established in Newark, N. J., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Texas, and Coffeyville, Kansas.

At the beginning of World War I in 1914, the Company, being unable to procure dyes and intermediates from Germany, undertook the manufacture of these materials here at the Chicago plant. This was the beginning of our extensive Chemical Products Department. This department has been greatly expanded to keep pace with the times, and now includes crude materials for the manufacture of sulfa and other drugs, explosives, synthetic rubber, petroleum distillation, etc.

Near the close of World War I, the Company began manufacturing lacquers, and in 1921 a large and well-equipped lacquer department was established in Chicago manufacturing lacquers for automobiles and many industrial uses. Sherwin-Williams is now one of the leaders in this field.

To fully provide for expanding export business, a plant was established in Havana, Cuba, in 1930, one at Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1940, another in 1944 at Sao Paulo, Brazil, and a small plant in Mexico City.

The demands in the field are supplied through 42 warehouses established in strategic points all over the U.S., about 500 retail branches and thousands of dealers in practically every city of importance in the country. Beyond this, there are many thousands of sales outlets for widely distributed products which have been added in recent years.

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