

The origin of Corrugated

The history of corrugated dates back to the 19th century. Corrugated was born from a new paper usage and from the increasing necessity to pack and protect goods.

Thanks to its basic raw materials, and despite considerable changes, modern corrugated packaging is not so different than that of our great grandfathers.

This ingenious construction is and will remain profitable, modern, and innovative.

Some important dates:



1856

Two Englishmen, Healey and Allen, obtained a patent for the first known use of corrugated. The paper was fed through a very simple hand machine made of 2 fluted rolls. The result was a nice fluted paper used as the lining in hats.

1871

The first use of corrugated paper for packaging was by an American man, Albert L. Jones who obtained a patent for the use of corrugated paper for wrapping fragile items such as bottles.



1854

Again in the United States, Olivier Long patented the concept of adding a liner to one side of the corrugated paper to strengthen it.

1881

Some US manufacturers considered as the corrugated pioneers acquired the patents covering this new packaging concept. They concentrated their efforts on developing new machinery. The Thompson and Norris company created the first mechanically-driven single-facer (one liner) and introduced the first 3 European Corrugators in Europe.

1883 London (UK)

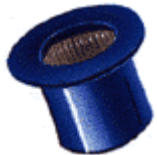
1886 Kirchberg (Germany)

1888 Exideuil-sur-Vienne (France)

1895 Independant Equipment producers enter the corrugated business production. The first continuous corrugator was developed by Jefferson T. Ferres of the Sefton Manufacturing CO.

The first corrugating machines appeared at the start of the century, a century of continuous innovations and adaptation to the changing world

The production of corrugated packaging showed rapid growth. It accompanied the industrial revolution and responded to the steady demand for more transport packaging. Corrugated production closely follows economic activity.



Today it adapts to the constant evolution of the retail trade and its continually changing logistics requirements.

Since the end of the 19th century, many changes have occurred and remarkable progress has been made in the improvement of raw materials, in the equipment, in the production processes and the printing techniques of corrugated packaging.

Some examples are listed below:

- The number of paper grades used for the production of corrugated is continuously increasing. The choice and the quality in all different liners and fluting are improving constantly.

- Of course the production speed increased dramatically with the improvement of equipment.

This is also true on the user side, thanks to high speed case erectors, fillers and closers.

- The use of computers has revolutionized the industry by permitting continuous runs and avoiding machine stops. Its impact was also considerable on packaging design and order processing. Progress of course is not over and Information Technology will drive it.

- In the last decade, new printing techniques brought the biggest changes. The changing role of packaging from logistics to marketing functions, the use of bar codes for product identification have both required an enhancement of the quality of graphics on corrugated packaging.

Small flutes and high quality paper allow for a very high standard of graphics, which leads to new opportunities in end-use markets.