

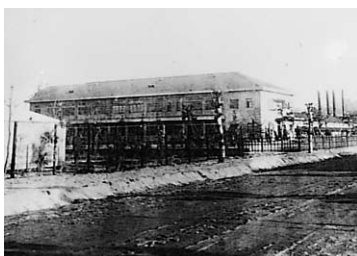
## HISTORY

### 1920s

- 1926 • Kurashiki Kenshoku Co. established
- 1928 • Rayon commercialized: production of rayon filament yarn begun at the Kurashiki Plant

### 1940s

- 1940 • Chugoku Sangyo Co., Ltd. (now Kuraray Chemical Co., Ltd.) established



New laboratory of Okayama Plant

- 1943 • Capital participation in Kakuichi Rubber Co., Ltd. (now Kuraray Plastics Co., Ltd.)
- 1949 • Company name changed to Kurashiki Rayon Co., Ltd.

### 1950s

- 1950 • *KURALON* commercialized: production of *KURALON* staple started
- 1958 • Poval commercialized: production of poval for market sale started

### 1960s

- 1960 • Capital participation in Kyowa Gas Chemical Co., Ltd., which conducts methacrylic resin business
- 1961 • Osaka Goseihin Co., Ltd. (now Kuraray Trading Co., Ltd.) established
- 1962 • Production of PVA film started at Saijo Plant
- 1963 • New York Representative Office established (transferred to Kuraray America, Inc., in April 1996)
- 1964 • Production of polyester staple started at Tamashima Plant
  - Kuraray Fudosan Co., Ltd., established
  - *CLARINO* commercialized: production of *CLARINO* man-made leather started at Kurashiki Plant 1965
  - European Representative Office established in Hamburg, Germany (moved to Düsseldorf in June 1968)
- 1969 • Production of polyester filament started at Saijo Plant

### 1970s

- 1970 • Company name changed to Kuraray Co., Ltd.
- Hong Kong Representative Office established (transferred to Kuraray Hong Kong Co., Ltd., in June 1998)

- 1972 • Contact lens business started
- *EVAL* commercialized: production facilities for *EVAL* resin completed at Okayama Plant
- Nonwoven fabrics business started
- Isoprene chemicals business launched: operation at Kashima Plant started and production of polyisoprene rubber begun
- 1975 • Artificial organs business started
- 1976 • New isoprene chemicals (NIC) facilities completed at Nakajo Plant



Factory for nonwoven fabrics of Kuraray Chicopee Co., Ltd. (now Kuraflex Co., Ltd.)

- 1977 • Kuraray Engineering Co., Ltd., established
- 1978 • Advanced into the dental materials field: *CLEARFIL* adhesive dental filler produced

### 1980s

- 1983 • Cement-reinforcing *KURALON* developed
- Eval Company of America established, and marketing of *EVAL* resin in the U.S. begun (production started in 1986)



*CLEARFIL* adhesive dental filler

- 1984 • Haru-Kuraray GmbH, a man-made leather sales company, established in Germany jointly with Marubeni Corp. and Haru Holding & Management GmbH
- Merged with Nippon Velcro Co., Ltd., which produces hook and loop fasteners
- 1986 • Clarino America Corporation, a man-made leather sales company, established in the U.S. jointly with Marubeni Corp.
- Production started at Eval Company of America

### 1990s

- 1990 • *SEPTON* commercialized: Production of *SEPTON* thermoplastic elastomer started at Kashima Plant

- 1991 • Kuraray Europe GmbH established in Düsseldorf, Germany
- 1995 • Kuraray *EVAL* Europe GmbH established in Düsseldorf
  - Kuraray Hong Kong Co., Ltd., established
- 1996 • Kuraray America, Inc., established in New York as administrative holding company in the U.S.
- Kuraray Singapore Pte., Ltd., established, and capital participation in Poval Asia Pte Ltd.
- 1997 • *EVAL* Europe N.V. established in Belgium
- 1998 • *KURALON K-II* commercialized
- 1999 • Production started at Poval Asia Pte Ltd.
- Mass-production started for the heat-resistant polyamide resin *GENESTAR*
- Production at *EVAL* Europe N.V. started

### 2000s

- 2000 • Mass-production of a new water-soluble resin *EXCEVAL* was started
- Capital participation in Lorica Sud S.r.l., an Italian man-made leather processing and sales company
- Kuraray Holdings U.S.A., Inc., established as a holding company in the U.S.
- *SEPTON* Company of America established in the U.S.
- 2001 • PVA gel mass-production facilities become operational
- Kuraray terminated its rayon business
- Kuraray Specialities Europe GmbH established in Frankfurt, Germany
- Kuraray Medical Inc. established
- Acquired PVA and PVB operations of Clariant AG
- 2002 • Shanghai Office established
- Production started at *SEPTON* Company of America
- 2004 • Kuraray Research and Technical Center, USA (KRTC), commenced operations
- Acquired and began operating the PVB film business of HT Troplast



Kuraray Research and Technical Center, USA (KRTC)  
Location: Pasadena, Texas (on EVALCA's grounds)

- 2005 • Acquired *Vectran* polyarylate fibers business of U.S.-based Celanese Advanced Materials Inc. Operations commenced as a division of Kuraray America, Inc.