

It all began in New York City...

Jay L. Smith, a New York salesman for the National Lead Company, saw a growing need for brass and bronze specialties. Arranging to have his products manufactured by other foundries, Smith began his fledgling corporation in 1926. It was established on a solid foundation of fair dealing and customer service.

In the **1930's**, an expansion into marine products precipitated a move to Newark, New Jersey. During a time of national economic distress, the company's values and commitment to customer satisfaction resulted in expansion and continued success; additional employees were hired for machining processes and Smith started manufacturing products. In 1942, management shifted to the young Jay R. Smith. After World War II, growth and expansion resulted in a much-needed move to a new and larger facility in Union, New Jersey.

In **1962**, Smith's increasing success required yet another move to Piscataway, New Jersey. A third generation of the Smith family, Jay L. Smith II, joined the team.

Sixteen years later, in **1978**, the Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. moved to its present location in Montgomery, Alabama. The plant is situated on a 33-acre site in the Gunter Industrial Park; the plant contains over 330,000 square feet of office, manufacturing, and warehouse space.



1946

- 1946 - Company relocates to a larger facility in Union, NJ.
- 1947 - (Circa) - First independent manufacturer's representative is hired to cover New York City.
- 1961 - A new plant is constructed in New Market (Piscataway), NJ. The company moves into the new plant on June 5, 1962.



- 1972 - Acquires Potter-Roemer, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA, a fire protection products manufacturer.
- 1973 - Acquires Robinson Foundry in Alexander City, AL, a gray iron foundry.
- 1975 - Mr. Jay L. Smith (Jay R. Smith's son) becomes president of the company.



- 1984 - Smith Industries is created as a parent holding corporation with four operating divisions (Robinson Foundry; Potter-Roemer, Inc.; Busch Code-Pruf, Inc.; and Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.) and one subsidiary (Smith Data Systems, Inc.).
- 1986 - Acquired Precision Arc Company, a manufacturer of precision welding equipment and water hammer arresters.
- 1987 - Sold Robinson Foundry Division.
- 1988 - The American Society of Plumbing Engineers presents Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. with the "Honor Roll of ASPE Employers" award.
- 1989 - Discontinues Smith Data Systems, Inc. as a separate subsidiary corporation and its personnel become part of the Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. division.
- 1990 - Busch Code-Pruf, Inc. division is sold.
- 1992 - Forms Jay R. Smith Plumbing and Drainage Products, Inc. in Toronto, Canada as the marketing arm for the Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. Division's products in Canada.

1994

- 1994 - Introduces custom images, custom designed grates and tops.



- 1996 - A year of firsts in electronic publishing. The company moves onto the Internet with its first website; the Submittal CD-ROM "Specify Smith" is released; and Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.'s, "A Portrait of an Industry Leader" video and CD-ROM is published.
- 1996 - "A Portrait of an Industry Leader" video receives a Citation of Excellence in Audio/Visual Video/Film Sales Presentation from the Montgomery Advertising Federation at the 37th Annual American Advertising Awards.
- 1997 - The Flood-Gate Automatic Backwater Valve is acquired.
- 1997 - Potter-Roemer Division acquires Tri Star Sky light, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of skylights and smoke vents.
- 1998 - Sold the Precision Arc Division.
- 1998 - Potter-Roemer, Inc. and its Tri Star Skylight product group consolidate their operations into a new 100,000 square foot building in Santa Ana, CA.

1926

- 1926 - Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. is founded in New York City by Mr. Jay L. Smith.
- 1930 - The business grows, justifying the hire of the first full-time employee.
- 1933 - First permanent facility is established in Newark, NJ.
- 1942 - Mr. Jay L. Smith, founder, dies at the age of 77. Mr. Jay R. Smith assumes leadership of the company.



- 1962 - "G-62," a product line catalog, is introduced; the beginning of a pioneering catalog concept that would revolutionize literature in the plumbing and drainage industry.
- 1963 - Acquired cleanout and enamel floor drain line, becoming an industry leader in product range.
- 1964 - Expands into the Canadian market and two years later, creates Rototech-Smith in Montreal, Canada.
- 1968 - Charter Exhibitor at the American Society of Plumbing Engineers Convention and Engineered Plumbing Exhibition in Los Angeles, CA.
- 1969 - "The Best Catalog" in the industry is introduced in Chicago, IL — the concept continues today as the "Smith Yellow Pages."
- 1970 - Acquires Busch Code-Pruf, Inc. in New York City, NY, a specialty drain and solid surface products company.

1975

- 1977 - Creates Smith Data Systems, Inc. in Piscataway, NJ, a custom software company.
- 1978 - Mr. Jay R. Smith retires.
- 1979 - Corporate Headquarters and manufacturing is established in Montgomery, AL.
- 1979 - Sells Rototech-Smith in Montreal, Canada.



1988

- 1993 - Introduces Enviro-Flo® Trench Drain Series and signs a Strategic Alliance Agreement with ACO Polymer Products, Inc. to distribute polymer concrete and fiberglass trench drains.



1996

- 1996 - Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. receives the American Society of Plumbing Engineers "Industry Award" for Outstanding Service to the Advancement of Plumbing Engineering Technology. The award is presented at the ASPE Convention in Phoenix, AZ.
- 1996 - The Remediator Grease Treatment System is introduced at ASPE in Indianapolis, IN.



- 1998 - The Virtual Yellow Pages CD-ROM is introduced, an electronic product catalog and price guide with submittals and drawings.

1999

On June 1, **2010**, Morris Group International and Smith Industries announced a new business alliance and a jointly owned company.

In 2021, at 95 years strong, Smith expands the square footage of the manufacturing facility to produce several new products, and the warehouse space is enlarged to better serve customers.

Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. provides a comprehensive line of quality engineered plumbing and drainage products for the non-residential construction market. All Smith products are designed for adaptability, conformance to codes, ease of installation, and maximum performance efficiency.

From a New York basement to the new business alliance with Morris Group International, Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. continues its commitment to the plumbing industry and today's construction professionals.



- 2000 - Launches the new, interactive Virtual Yellow Pages Website replacing old site.
- 2000 - Potter-Roemer acquires Fire Products Mfg., Inc. (Fire Pro).



- 2001 - Introduces the fully re-engineered 4000 Series Cleanout line, the most extensive product change in the company's history.

2002

- 2002 - Potter-Roemer sells Tri-Star Skylight Inc.
- 2002 - Guardian Dual Check "Brick Fit" Hydrant introduced.



- 2003 - Mr. Jay R. Smith passes away at age 93.
- 2003 - Buzz, Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.'s first e-mail newsletter, is released.

- 2007 - Rainwater Harvesting Products are introduced.
- 2008 - Completed a 30,000 square foot addition on the building to house the stainless steel fabrication equipment.
- 2010 - Business Alliance with Acorn Family of Companies located in City of Industry, California.
- 2010 - First online web store (www.rainwaterharvestingstore.com) created to sell rainwater harvesting products.
- 2010 - Introduced the Quad Close Trap Seal device.



- 2013 - The Enviro-Flo II lightweight polypropylene trench drain system is introduced.
- 2015 - Introduction of EZ Trench, one in a series of distribution products to be sold at wholesale counters. Other distribution products include the Quad Close "Stink Stopper" Trap Seal Device and hydrants.



- 2015 - Smith expands its line of Access Doors to include a wider variety of types and applications. The new, all-encompassing line includes acoustical tile, ceiling fire resistant, drywall bead, metal lath and many more.

2017

- 2017 - Smith expands product offering into 'stainless steel' drains, trench drains, and interceptors.



- 2019 - Contractor Value Added products and services are introduced.
- 2020 - A full product offering of trap primers and distribution units is launched under the brand name Smith Fluid Controls®.



2000

- 2002 - The Labor Saver Fixture Support introduced.



- 2004 - JRS Products are introduced— a complete line of plumbing and drainage products for the light commercial and design-build market.



- 2006 - Celebrated 80 years of commitment to the plumbing and drainage industry with a National Sales Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Introduced three new product lines at the meeting: Smith Stainless, Grease+Gard Retrofit Skimmer and Grease Recovery Device, and Siphonic Roof Drains.

2007

- 2010 - Release of the first ever combined catalog and price guide.
- 2010 - Green Roof and Cool Roof Drains re-introduced.
- 2011 - Celebrated 85 years of service to the plumbing and drainage industry.
- 2011 - Construction on a 53,000 sq. ft. warehouse expansion begins and the building's office facilities are renovated.
- 2012 - Acorn Family of Companies becomes Morris Group International. Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. is now a member of MGI.

MEMBER OF



MORRIS GROUP INTERNATIONAL

- 2012 - Held National Sales Meeting to celebrate 85 years of service to the plumbing and drainage industry.

- 2016 - Jay L. Smith dies at the age of 76.
- 2016 - A new interface for the Enterprise Information System (EIS) is introduced. The EIS Cloud enables reps to perform all EIS functions on any platform or device.
- 2017 - Donald E. Morris, CEO of Smith is showcased in the December 2017 edition of The Wholesaler as **Person of the Year**.



2018

- 2018 - The trench drains product line flourishes to include Zip-Trench®, a 6" and 12' wide polypropylene trench drain.



- 2020 - The first ever virtual events are hosted for the reps; Smith releases 360° video tour and new website experience.
- 2021 - Smith expands the square footage of the manufacturing facility to produce several new products, and the warehouse space is enlarged to better service customers.



2021