

The connection between its materials capabilities and the potential to contribute value to society has always been embedded in Gore's DNA. The company innovates with purpose, exploring new possibilities to deliver meaningful solutions designed to help solve the challenges of its customers and its communities.

## 1950s

Bill and Vieve Gore launch W. L. Gore & Associates in the basement of their Delaware home to explore the untapped potential of the polymer polytetrafluoroethylene, or PTFE. The company's first product is MULTI-TET® Insulated Wire and Cable. It will be used most heavily in defense applications and the burgeoning computer industry.

## 1970s

Gore announces the formation of an industrial products group to sell a number of products for the industrial maintenance, plumbing, and heating and air conditioning markets. The GORE-TEX Vascular Graft launches, beginning Gore's Medical Products Division. Gore makes its first sale of windproof, waterproof and breathable GORE-TEX Fabric.

## 1990s

Gore introduces its first product featuring electromagnetic interference (EMI) shielding technology. GLIDE® Floss\*, one of the company's most widely recognized non-fabric consumer products, debuts. Gore introduces a membrane electrode assembly used in fuel cell technology. ELIXIR® Strings — a coated guitar string that dramatically improves tone life — enters the market. The company introduces the first toxin-destroying filter system.

## 2010s

GORE-TEX Active Shell garments launch, geared toward high speed, highly aerobic activities that require enhanced breathability. Gore earns its 10th DuPont Plunkett Award for fluoropolymer innovation, this time for turbine filters that capture particles in the submicron range. Gore continues making a splash in the portable electronics market with a vent that provides new levels of protection against water immersion. GORE® High Flex Planar Cables help enable the landmark discovery of gravitational waves. Gore surpasses 45 million medical devices implanted worldwide.

## 1960s

The company's first patent is issued. Gore's technology lands on the moon as part of NASA's historic Apollo 11 mission. Bob Gore, son of Bill and Vieve, discovers expanded PTFE (ePTFE), a versatile fluoropolymer that dramatically broadens Gore's product offerings.

## 1980s

GORE-TEX Footwear laminate and GORE-TEX Glove inserts are developed. GORE® Fiber is used in space suits designed for astronauts on the Columbia, NASA's inaugural space shuttle mission. Gore launches its first medical ePTFE patch product, a cardiovascular patch. Others follow, including patches for hernia reconstruction. Gore receives the Prince Philip Award for Polymers in the Service of Mankind for the development of its medical products

## 2000s

Gore launches minimally-invasive products to treat congenital heart defects, peripheral artery disease and aortic aneurysms. Architectural fabric woven from GORE® Fiber is used in the new retractable roof over Centre Court at London's Wimbledon tennis tournament. Gore is recognized for its development of functional fabrics that provide full service protection against weather and electrostatic discharges. A Fast Company magazine article refers to Gore as "the most innovative company in America." The company celebrates 50 years of innovation.

\*The GLIDE® Floss product line and brand were sold to P&G in 2003.

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