

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 KURARAYKURAFLEX 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 Loricca 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 Eval Company of America'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.
- 2006 • Kuraray Europe GmbH merges with Kuraray Specialities Europe GmbH
- 2008 • Eval Company of America and SEPTON Company of America were merged into Kuraray America, Inc.
 - All outstanding shares of Poval Asia Pte Ltd. acquired and company made a subsidiary