

A History of Contact Lens Innovation

To download, and for more information, visit our website: JnJVisionCareInfo.com

HOW MANUFACTURERS HAVE CHANGED THE WAY WE SEE

While the first contact lens dates back over 500 years, the modern lenses worn today by nearly 44 million Americans only came into existence in the 1950s. Since that time, contact lenses have seen dramatic improvements over the last seven decades. Manufacturers continue to research and develop innovative technologies aimed at tackling challenging vision conditions and improving the quality of life for the millions of contact lens consumers across the country.

Contact lenses are made with plastic for the first time—a dramatic improvement from the original rigid, blown-glass lenses.

Manufacturers redesign lenses to cover only the cornea of the eye—improving comfort and oxygen permeability—and develop the first hydrogel-based lenses, which better drape the eye's surface.

Lens manufacturers introduce contacts that can be replaced after daily, weekly or monthly wear—increasing patient choice and making lenses safer than ever before.

1988



ACUVUE® introduces the brand's first disposable contact lenses.

THE FUTURE

By 2024, it is estimated that there will be more than 46 million U.S. contact lens wearers.

Thanks to the continued innovation of contact lens manufacturers, we can hope to see lenses in the future that better-suit the unique ocular features of lens wearers, and that seek to address currently unmet vision and eye health needs. For example:



Even thinner contact lenses that maximize oxygen transmissibility and wearer comfort,



Scleral lenses that could correct severe corneal injuries without surgery,



Zoom capable lenses that would be controlled by the wearer's blink,



Smart contact lenses that would monitor the glucose levels of diabetic patients.

1940s

1950s

1980s

2007

ACUVUE® Brand introduces its first silicone hydrogel lenses with **BLINK STABILIZED™** design to realign naturally after the blink to help keep vision stable.

2000s

Manufacturers develop the first contact lenses made of silicone hydrogel – the most oxygen permeable lenses to date.

1993

ACUVUE® launches the very first daily disposable contact lenses.

1990s

Contact lens accessibility surges as lenses become safer and more user-friendly.

2008

The world's first daily disposable lenses made of silicone hydrogel are introduced by ACUVUE®.

2014

Contact lenses come in a variety of thicknesses – some up to 65% thinner than the contact lenses of the 1950's.

TODAY

ACUVUE OASYS® Lenses now address **98% of patients' spherical and astigmatism needs.**

Today, there are over **160 contact lens brands**, designed to address a range of vision health needs: from lenses that reshape the wearer's cornea during sleep, to bifocal and UV blocking lenses, to lenses that can partially correct color blindness.