

FROM THE PAGES OF
HISTORY

Raynor Mfg. Co.

Photos

1. Ray Neisewander Sr. (1906-1979)
2. Ray Neisewander Jr. (1932-)
3. Ray Neisewander III (1961-)
4. This 28,000-sq.-ft. plant is the first Raynor building in Dixon, Ill.
5. Raynor in 2002 in Dixon. The original building is in the upper left.



6. This 1949 Raynor brochure features its "Up and Over" logo. A ball bearing is used for the "O" in Raynor to emphasize that the door "Floats Smoothly on Ball Bearings."
7. This handle and nameplate became the Raynor "Mark of Quality" in 1955. It remained the basic element in the corporate logo for more than 25 years.
8. The 2002 Raynor logo still retains the nameplate trademark from 1955.



Milestones

- 1929 ▶ Ray Neisewander Sr., 23, begins Capitol Wood Works, a woodworking mill in Springfield, Ill.
- 1940 ▶ By 1940, Capitol Wood Works starts making wood garage door sections, selling to Rowe Mfg. Co. of Galesburg, Ill.
- 1944 ▶ On Oct. 17, 1944, Neisewander teams up with Bill Norberg, former plant superintendent at Rowe, to form Raynor (Ray + Nor) Mfg. Co. in Quincy, Ill., to make garage doors.
- 1946 ▶ The plant moves to Dixon, Ill., closer to Chicago, starting with 37 employees and a 28,000-square-foot plant.
- 1948 ▶ Norberg sells out to Neisewander, who establishes a management team in Dixon to run daily operations.
- 1954 ▶ By 1954, Raynor employs 150 and sells doors to distributors in 35 states.
- 1961 ▶ Ray Neisewander Jr., 29, joins the company in Dixon after five years as a Raynor distributor in Bettendorf, Iowa.
- 1968 ▶ Ray Jr. purchases the first Raynor truck, beginning the Raynor fleet.
Ray Sr. promotes Ray Jr., 36, to executive vice president.
- 1970 ▶ Raynor distributors are now found in 48 states.
- 1978 ▶ The company makes its first commercial operator.
- 1979 ▶ Ray Neisewander Sr. dies at age 73. Ray Jr. becomes president.
- 1980 ▶ The company introduces the Decade door, the industry's first successfully marketed raised-panel steel door.
- 1982 ▶ Raynor produces its first residential garage door opener.
- 1985 ▶ After the 1984 buyout of the Walter Balfour Company, Raynor introduces rolling steel doors.
- 1986 ▶ Raynor sponsors a car in the Indy Car racing circuit. Ray Neisewander III, 27, becomes team manager in 1988.
- 1988 ▶ The firm announces the industry's first "For As Long As You Own Your Home" warranty.
- 1990 ▶ Raynor teams with entertainer Bill Cosby to form the Raynor-Cosby Racing Team.
- 1997 ▶ Ray Neisewander III, 36, is named executive vice president.
- 1998 ▶ The Raynor finger-protected Prisma steel door is introduced, the industry's first steel door with mixed panels (long and short) in the same section.
- 1999 ▶ Raynor purchases Richards-Wilcox Canada.
- 2002 ▶ With 900 employees, Raynor now has 900,000 square feet of manufacturing space, exporting product to 55 countries.