

PLENCO's History

Built on Ingenuity. Driven by Progress.

Plastics Engineering Company (PLENCO) began in 1934 as a family partnership founded by Frank G. Brotz and his five sons. What started as American Molded Products in Chicago quickly became a focused pursuit of engineered materials innovation. Early work concentrated on thermosetting liquid resins used in everyday molded components, laying the foundation for a company built on precision problem-solving and technical expertise.

Within months, PLENCO relocated to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where it continues to operate today. By 1935, the company made a pivotal shift from liquid resins to dry, granular molding compounds, embracing more scalable and efficient manufacturing methods. Even in its earliest years, PLENCO demonstrated a defining trait that still drives it forward: a commitment to continuous improvement that includes adapting, refining, and advancing materials to meet evolving applications.

Engineering Through Challenge

As global demands intensified in the late 1930s and 1940s, Plastics Engineering Company focused its efforts on custom molding and precision manufacturing. During World War II, the company scaled rapidly, supporting U.S. military operations with critical phenolic components used across Army, Navy, and Air Force applications. From electrical connectors to specialized training materials, PLENCO's work contributed to systems where reliability was non-negotiable.

In the post-war years, material shortages pushed the PLENCO to evolve again. Rather than wait on limited supply chains, PLENCO re-established resin and compound manufacturing in 1946, strengthening control over performance and supply. This decision marked the beginning of PLENCO as not just a manufacturer, but a long-term partner, developing formulations designed to meet both internal needs and emerging market demands.

Expanding Capability. Advancing Materials.

Through the 1950s and beyond, PLENCO expanded its technical footprint, introducing new resin systems, including melamine and melamine-phenolic compounds, and scaling production to meet growing industrial demand. Facility expansions, advanced warehousing, and dedicated Research and Development (R&D) capabilities positioned the Company to respond quickly and reliably to customers across increasingly complex and high-performance applications.

Strategic growth continued into the late 20th century through targeted acquisitions and technology investments. By integrating established product lines and advancing internal processes such as phenol recovery, PLENCO strengthened both its technical depth and commitment to sustainable manufacturing practices. The introduction of bulk molding compounds (BMC) further expanded its portfolio, enabling high-performance, lightweight alternatives to traditional materials like steel and aluminum in industries where strength, efficiency, and reliability are critical.

A Legacy That Powers What's Next

Today, Plastics Engineering Company, known as PLENCO, remains a family-owned business spanning three generations. From its headquarters in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, PLENCO engineers and manufactures high-performance thermoset resins, molding compounds, and molded components that enable critical applications across advanced industries.

PLENCO operates with a clear purpose: to create materials that shape the future of innovation. Through continuous investment in technology, close collaboration with customers to co-develop tailored solutions, and an unwavering commitment to quality, PLENCO delivers precision-engineered materials designed to help customers meet today's demands and lead what comes next.