



A Century of Water Coolers

Since its invention in 1911, the water cooler has evolved in both form and function, from primitive glass container to modern bottle-filling station.

1911: The first electric refrigerated water coolers, which resemble a freestanding water faucet, are marketed by UK company Oasis.

1950s: Four decades later, the first units featuring controls for hot and cold water are introduced.

1980s: Glass jugs are replaced with plastic ones, helping the product go mainstream in both offices and homes.

1990s: The first bottleless water coolers appear, which connect directly to the existing water supply.

2010s: Environmental concerns over the rapid increase in single-use plastic water bottles lead to bottle-filling stations.

2020s: The global COVID-19 pandemic inspires new innovations, including foot-activated and completely contactless units.