

Going up: A History of ADAMS & Elevators



From the first safety brake to today's high-tech systems, the elevator industry has constantly changed in response to consumer demands.

ADAMS has been a part of this journey for almost 90 years, proudly providing high-quality solutions that meet the needs of building owners, operators, and passengers.

Take a look at how ADAMS — and elevators — have evolved over the years.

For chronological order, start down at the ground floor!

Future Floor (Looking Ahead)

As the industry evolves, ADAMS is focused on offering advanced technologies that enhance safety, performance, and energy efficiency.

With a commitment to providing better parts, delivered faster, ADAMS continues to lead the way in building the next generation of elevator systems.

ADAMS Today

ADAMS remains one of the industry's leading suppliers of elevator parts and safety solutions, committed to maintaining high standards of quality and safety.

Turn of the Century (2000s)

With skyscrapers growing ever taller, the need for safer elevator systems grew as well. ADAMS responded by introducing two new safety features: GateKeeper™ light curtains and LifeJacket® plunger/gripper systems.

The Safety

Revolution (1981)

ADAMS became a leader in elevator safety with the introduction of the patented Survivor® push buttons, designed to withstand high impact and provide lasting durability in high-traffic elevator systems.

ADAMS Enters the Scene (1930s)

In the early 1930s, James Adams and Joseph Coulombe founded Adams Manufacturing after recognizing the industry's urgent need for reliable elevator equipment. Their first job? Chicago's Union Station, a massive transportation hub.

Modern Developments (2010s-Present)

In response to demand for smarter, more connected safety systems, ADAMS introduced the HatchLatch® door restrictor and Safe-T-Lock Door Monitor with intelligent monitoring. ADAMS also placed more emphasis on customizable solutions to meet diverse customer needs.

Expansion Era (1990s)

As the elevator industry expanded, so did ADAMS. In 1994, ADAMS moved into a 150,000-sq.-ft. facility in Niles, Illinois, increasing production and streamlining operations. As demand for advanced parts grew, ADAMS also expanded its variety of components.

Post-War Innovations (1940s-1950s)

Following World War II, urbanization surged, and demand for modern elevator systems skyrocketed. The elevator industry saw big innovations in speed, efficiency, and safety. ADAMS capitalized on this growth, supplying elevator parts for systems across the U.S.

The Birth of Modern Elevators (1853-1854)

Inventor Elisha Otis introduced the safety brake during a demo at the Crystal Palace in NYC. It prevented free-fall accidents, making elevators safer for public use, and laid the foundation for modern vertical transportation systems.



More Parts. Delivered Faster.

For a closer look at the latest innovations from ADAMS, visit ADAMSelevator.com.