

History of Walgreens Boots Alliance

See what we've accomplished during
our 170+ years of service



Walgreens Boots Alliance

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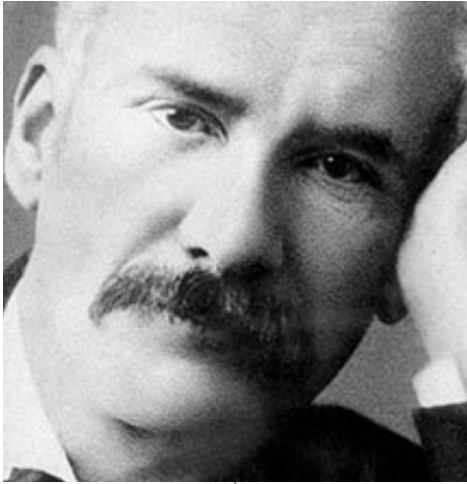
1849

John Boot opens first Boots store, selling herbal remedies, in Goose Gate, Nottingham, UK



1870

The Boots business begins to develop under Jesse Boot, John Boot's son



1901

Charles R. Walgreen Sr. purchases the drugstore where he worked as a pharmacist in Chicago, U.S.



1915

Edgar Moss opens his first Moss Chemists store in Middlesex, UK



1922

Walgreens invents the malted milkshake



1933

Boots opens its 1,000th store in the UK



1935

Boots launches No7 cosmetics



1939

Boots launches Soltan suncare range



1951

The first self-service Boots stores are trialed in London, UK



1851

Maison Thomas pharmaceutical distributor is founded in Agen, France



1896

Interpharm pharmaceutical distributor created in The Netherlands



1909

Walgreen Co. is formed and the drugstore chain expansion begins with the opening of its second store



1919

S.A.F.A. pharmaceutical distributor is created in Spain



1927

Walgreens stock becomes publicly traded



1934

Walgreens stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange



1938

UniChem group is formed in the UK to serve wholesale pharmaceutical products to independent pharmacies



1950

Walgreens begins the transition to self-service stores

Moss Chemists prescription service delivery vans begin operating

1968

Walgreens becomes the first major drugstore chain in the U.S. to put its prescriptions into child-resistant containers



1975

Walgreens reaches \$1 billion in sales



1981

The first Intercom pharmacy computers are installed in Walgreens pharmacies in Iowa



1984

Walgreens opens its 1,000th store



1997

Alliance UniChem is formed from the merger of Unichem and Alliance Santé



1999

Walgreens.com launches its online pharmacy



2002

Walgreens becomes the first drugstore to offer prescription labels in multiple languages chainwide

Alliance UniChem increases its stake in Hedef Alliance to 50 percent



2006

Alliance UniChem merges with Boots Group to form Alliance Boots

Walgreens acquires Happy Harry's drugstore chain

Walgreens begins offering in-store health clinics



1960

Walgreens enters the Puerto Rico market



1969

Boots launches Ibuprofen (Brufen) in the UK



1977

Pharmaceutical wholesaler Alleanza Farmaceutica is founded by Stefano Pessina in Italy



1982

Pharmaceutical wholesaler Di Pharma is founded by Ornella Barra in Italy



1991

Walgreens opens its first drugstore with a drive-thru pharmacy

UniChem purchases Moss Chemists in the UK

Alliance Santé group is formed from the merger between Alleanza Salute Italia and French pharmaceutical wholesalers ERPI and IFP



1998

Alliance UniChem acquires S.A.F.A. in Spain

Boots becomes the largest retail pharmacy chain in Ireland



2000

Walgreens opens its 3,000th store in Chicago

Alliance UniChem commences acquisition of Alliance Apotekene pharmacies in Norway and acquires 25 percent stake in Turkish pharmaceutical wholesaler, Hedef

Alliance UniChem acquires Interpharm pharmaceutical wholesaler and De Vier Vijzels pharmacy chain in The Netherlands



2004

Alliance UniChem acquires 29.99 percent of German pharmaceutical wholesaler ANZAG

2008

Alliance Boots forms a 50:50 joint venture with Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a major pharmaceutical wholesaler in China



2010

Alliance Boots becomes the majority shareholder in Hedef Alliance

Alliance Boots become the majority shareholder in ANZAG

Walgreens completes its acquisition of the New York-based Duane Reade drugstore chain

Walgreens opens its first Well Experience format in stores



2012

Walgreens acquires a 45 percent stake in Alliance Boots, taking the first step in the strategic partnership to create the first global pharmacy-led, health and well-being enterprise

Walgreens opens its 8,000th store in Los Angeles and acquires USA Drug, a pharmacy chain in the mid-South U.S.

Walgreens and Alliance Boots form Walgreens Boots Alliance Development joint venture in Bern, Switzerland



2014

Walgreens exercises option to complete second step of its strategic partnership with Alliance Boots, forming Walgreens Boots Alliance through the full combination of Walgreens and Alliance Boots

Alliance Boots completes the acquisition of a 12 percent stake in Nanjing Pharmaceutical Company Limited, a major Chinese pharmaceutical wholesaler

Alliance Boots completes acquisition of Farmacias Benavides in Mexico and Farmacias Ahumada in Chile



2016

Hedef Alliance rebrands to Alliance Healthcare Turkey



2018

Walgreens Boots Alliance joins the Dow Jones Industrial Average as one of its 30 components.

In July, the company completed an acquisition to acquire a 40 percent minority stake in GuoDa, a leading retail pharmacy chain in China.

In September, WBA and Alibaba launches a Boots flagship store on Tmall Global, Alibaba's B2C platform for international brands and retailers, introducing iconic Boots beauty brands to more than half a billion consumers on Alibaba's platforms in China.



2021

In June, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. completed the sale of its Alliance Healthcare businesses to AmerisourceBergen Corporation, allowing WBA to further focus on expanding its core retail pharmacy businesses and bring more innovative healthcare offerings to customers and patients.



2007

Alliance Boots wholesale businesses begin to be rebranded to Alliance Healthcare

Alliance Boots is privatized

Walgreens opens its first store in Hawaii and its 6,000th store, located in Louisiana

Walgreens acquires Take Care Health Systems and Option Care

Over 1,000 Alliance Pharmacy stores in the UK begin to be rebranded to 'Your local Boots pharmacy'



2009

Merger of Boots Opticians and Dollond & Aitchison to form the second largest optical chain in the UK



2011

Duane Reade opens 24-hour flagship store in New York at 40 Wall Street

Walgreens acquires drugstore.com and Beauty.com



2013

Walgreens and Alliance Boots announce a strategic, long-term relationship with AmerisourceBergen to collaborate on global supply chain opportunities



2015

Walgreens enters into 20-year fulfillment agreement with Valeant Pharmaceuticals that includes reduced pricing on Valeant products



2017

Walgreens Boots Alliance enters into long-term global supply chain agreement with Fareva

Walgreens Boots Alliance receives regulatory clearance to purchase 1,942 Rite Aid drugstores in the U.S.



2019

In October, Walgreens became the first U.S. retailer to test on-demand drone delivery service with Wing Aviation LLC