

Red Wing Product Line History

1877-1910	<p>The product line comprised primarily of utilitarian stoneware items such as jars, jugs, and churns, water coolers, bowls and such. Decorative pottery was limited mostly to flower pots and vases</p>
Hand-turning	<p>Jugs, churns and jars up to 40-gallons in size were formed by hand on a potters wheel. Company identifications were impressed into the sides or bottoms of some pieces, using metal stamps, before the clay was fully dried.</p>
Machine-turning	<p>Clay was formed into shape by a metal template cut to the contour of the vessel wall. Traditionally, if the template formed the outside contour, the machine was called a jigger; if it formed the inside contour, it was called a jolly.</p>
Slip-Casting	<p>A thin suspension of clay called slip, about the consistency of cream, is poured into a plaster mold. Moisture is drawn out of the slip, resulting in a layer of clay solidifying on the mold walls. When sufficient thickness has accumulated, the excess slip is poured out, leaving a hollow shell of clay, which shrinks away from the plaster as it continues to dry. The mold is then opened and the piece is removed.</p>
Salt-Glaze	<p>A clear, glassy surface was created on the exterior of the ware while it was being fired by throwing common rock salt into the kiln. The heat vaporized the salt and the atmosphere reacted with the clay to form a sodium-silicate glaze on the surface. The interiors of pieces, which wouldn't be exposed to the salt vapors, were sealed with a rich brown glaze. Capacity numbers and geometric or pictorial decorations were drawn by hand in rich cobalt blue on some pieces.</p>
Brown-Glaze	<p>The interiors of large pieces were covered with a brown glaze using a brown-firing clay from Albany, New York called Albany slip. Smaller pieces which were placed beneath larger, upturned pieces in order to make efficient use of space within the kiln were glazed all over in brown.</p>
White-Glaze	<p>A grayish-white firing glaze produced from a mixture of clay, feldspar and zinc oxide, among other ingredients, supplanted salt-glazing just before the beginning of the twentieth century. Glazes of this type had been used extensively on earthenware in England, hence their name, Bristol glaze. Among stoneware collectors, they are better known as zinc glazes. Their clean, white appearance was immediately preferred over the browns and tans of the older ware. It also served as a perfect canvas for applying advertising logos, trademarks and decorations using rubber stamps.</p>
Stoneware art pieces	<p>The first "art pottery" made in Red Wing consisted of decorative flower pots and vases. Pieces having the name "Saxon Ware" molded into their bottoms were fired without any glaze applied. The extent of this product line is unknown, as no catalog or price list including it has been found. Unglazed cemetery urns and umbrella stands were the first pieces to show up in company product line catalogs, beginning in 1894.</p>
Advertising pieces	<p>The earliest pieces produced by special order to advertise the name of the producer or seller of the product in which the jar or jug was sold had the identification applied in blue stenciled letters or, more rarely, molded into the piece. After the adoption of white-glaze, advertising banners were applied by rubber stamp and fired into the glaze. Blue and black were the most common colors but, red and green were also offered.</p>

- 1914 Brushed Ware line introduced. Brushed ware gets its name from the method of decoration. A colored stain is applied to the exterior of the piece, then partially "brushed" away, revealing the highlights and leaving the color in the crevices and texture of the surface.
Included: jardinières, urns, vases, bowls, and pitcher and glass sets
Colors: Walnut green, Cobalt Blue, Tan/Cocoa Brown
- 1915 A U.S. Patent was issued for the use of wire handles attached to large jars by machine screws and nuts through clay lugs near the rim. Red Wing's jars continued to display the December 21, 1915 patent issue date until the end of stoneware production in 1947.
- 1947 Hand-turning was discontinued. All ware was machine-turned or molded.
- 1929 to 1967 **Red Wing Production years of art pottery.**
- 1930s **Early Art Pottery Groups Included Lines:**
Fluted, Grecian, Shell Sylvan, Swan, Continental, Trumpet, Florentine, Indian, Fern Classic, Mandarin, Manhattan, Renaissance, vintage, neo-classic.
Colors: Ivory/Brown or Green Wipe, Pink Matte White Gypsy Orange, Turquoise, Eggshell, Yellow, Ocean Green with green lined, Seafoam Ivory with Nile green lined, Dutch Blue with white stripes, and Crocus Green gray with pink lined
- 1931 Nokomis a semi-matte finish in blended tones of grey, green, tan and copper colors.
- 1932-1937 Red Wing began to produce art ware for George Rumrill as broker wholesaling the line that Red Wing produced for him.
- 1938 Red Wing Commission Belle Kogan to design approximately 150 pieces from which they chose 100 pieces for production.
- 1939 The Terra-Craft Pottery with vases and bowls designed by Kogan where released along with ash receivers.
- 1939 Production of the badger and gopher figurine series.
- 1940 Red Wing commissions Kogan to design a line similar to Rumrill called Pompeian-Antiqued Ivory. Also introduced that year was the Hostess Ware line by Red Wing.
- 1940 to 1949 Charles Murphy becomes the head designer for Red Wing Art Pottery lines.
- 1941 Charles Murphy cookie jars where featured by Red Wing: Pierre, Katrina, and Friar Monk
- 1942 Charles Murphy figurals collection was introduced
- 1947 Red Wing Art Pottery Catalog featured the new crackle glaze.
- 1947 Stopped producing stoneware but continued to produce and market their art pottery and dinnerware
- 1950-1960 Art Pottery offered even more array of colors along with more contemporary look and strayed from the traditional colors and shapes used in the 30's and 40's
Also included gloss glaze with an art deco look and style
- 1950 Belle Kogan is commission for the Tropicana and Texura series and then later the Deluxe series. She was given her own mark, a "B" before the series numbers
- 1953 Charles Murphy returns to design a series of Hand Painted vases marked with "M"
- 1953 Red Wing produced a series of wing-shaped ashtrays including the "Pretty Red Wing" designed by Teddy Hutchson
- 1955 Fleck Grey glaze was introduced to both art and dinnerware lines.
- 1955 – 1959 The premier glaze/line call Sgraffito was introduced along with several new Murphy vases, bowls, planters, jardinières, and ashtrays.
- 1957 Garden Club Pottery series was introduced
- 1958 The 100th anniversary of Minnesota joining the union centennial trivet produced.
- 1960 Art pottery series where in to categories: Floraline (91 pieces) and Steroline (27). In addition to these series the Doric Ensemble, Chromoline, Handpainted and Birch Bark Lines where introduced.
- 1961 Cowboy A and Cowboy B where introduced

- 1962 Prismatic Line a Bell Kogan design was her biggest seller of all her Red Wing lines.
- 1965 Minnesota Twins winning the pennant ashtray series.
- 1935 **Introduction of dinnerware line**
- 1935 Gypsy Trail (popular into 1940's)
Patterns: Chevron, Reed Plain, and Fondoso
Was distributed by RumRill Potteries along with their art pottery Red Wing produced for them.
- Late 1930's
Labriego Line (Charles Murphy)
Solid colors including blue, yellow and green
- 1941 Provincial was the first to be hand decorated. It used the same mold for all the patterns in the line.
Patterns: Normandy, Orleans, Brittany, and Ardennes
- 1943 Provincial "Ooph" or Old Provincial
Colors of solid aqua and brown.
- 1947 Town & Country designed by Eva Zeisel
- 1947 Concord, Lexington, Chrysanthemum, Zinnia, Spring Song, Willow Wind, Iris, Quartette, Fruit, Fantasy, Lanterns, Magnolia, Lotus, Morning Glory, Blossom Time, Nassau, Bud, Harvest
- 1949 Dynasty Line
Colors: Yellow or pink and the pieces are six-sided and have a oriental motif
Patterns: Plum Blossom
- 1953 Fancy Free
Patterns: Desert and Caprice
- 1953 Anniversary Pattern was named as a result of the 75th anniversary of the Potteries.
Patterns: Capistrano, Driftwood, Pink Spice, Country Garden, Tweed Tex, Midnight Rose
Features: distinguishing basket weave texture
- 1953 Village Green Line (second most popular line to Bob White)
Patterns: Delta Blue (1954), Village Brown (1955), Picardy (1960), Two Step (1960), Provincial (1963)
- 1955 Casual Line
Patterns: Smart Set (1955), Bob White (1956), Tip Toe (1958), Round up (1958), Hearthside (1961),
Limited Edition Hamm's Brewing Company pattern
Bob White was available until the Potteries closed in 1967
- 1955 Futura Line
Patterns: Tampico, Crazy Rhythm, Random Harvest, Northern Lights, Golden Viking, Lupine, Colannes, Montmartre, Frontenac, Red Wing Rose.
- 1956 Contemporary
Patterns: White & Turquoise, Spruce
- 1956 Continental Buffet
No plates of table settings just services pieces on solid brass stands.
- 1960 Buffet Royale
Reissue of Continental Buffet less expensive with walnut stands
- 1957 Kermis
- 1960 True China
Patterns: Merrileaf, Vintage, Mediterrania, Daisy Chain, Crocus, Granada, Majestic, Lute Song
- 1962 Cylinder Line (not a formal name for the line simply characterized by their shape)
Patterns: Pepe, Turtle Dove, Tahitian Gold, Pompeii, Flight, Desert Sun,

1963 Bake & Serve
1964 Like China
Patterns: Blue Shadows, Brocade, Damask, and Kashmir
Advertised as color fast, oven proof and detergent safe
1964 Hotel & Restaurant China
Glazed either sold white or beige with flecks, some where blue, yellow or green trim. Hand Decorated for restaurants like: Diamond Jim's and Sweden House Chains
1965 Ebb Tide
1967 Ceramastone
Patterns: Charstone Blue, Adobestone, Greenwichstone, Heatherstone
Hearthstone Orange and Beige where made and retailed by Sears.

1967 Red Wing Potteries, Inc. ceased operation and was liquidated after a labor strike.