**For more than 100 years, Ace Hardware has been a part of local communities around the world and known as the place with the *Helpful Hardware Folks*™.**

Ace Hardware proudly supports a global network of more than 8,800 stores, the majority of which are independently owned and operated by local entrepreneurs. These dedicated retailers and their teams of red-vested heroes are deeply rooted in their communities, serving with care, expertise and pride. At Ace, being the helpful place means knowing our neighbors, earning their trust and going the extra mile.

What truly sets Ace apart is that no two Ace stores are exactly alike. Each store is tailored to meet the unique needs of its neighborhood, whether it's a compact urban storefront, a sprawling rural location or something in between. From paint and lawn care to tools, hardware and local niche services, Ace stores offer everything you need to fix, repair and maintain your home, with a helpful hand always nearby.

**Our co-op model**
Founded in 1924 by a small group of Chicago hardware store owners, Ace changed the retail landscape by allowing individual stores to purchase merchandise in bulk to save money and buy at the lowest possible prices. The Ace Hardware cooperative model enables independently owned and operated stores to unite under the Ace Hardware brand and leverage collective buying power, marketing and operational support. Because they are shareholders, Ace store owners own part of the company and don't pay franchise or royalty fees. To this day, Ace Hardware Corp. is owned solely and exclusively by local Ace retail entrepreneurs.

**Current store count**
As of April 2026, Ace Hardware has 5,842 total stores: 5,266 (90%) in the U.S. and 576 (10%) international.

- U.S. stores: 5,266
    - Ace Retail Holdings (company-owned): 267 (5%)
    - New store activations, year to date: 37

**Company vision**
Ace's long-term retail growth strategy has evolved over the years to keep pace with changing market conditions, but the premise has remained the same: achieve more and better retail performance by leveraging our key differentiators — quality, service and convenience.

The latest iteration — Higher Ground — provides Ace stores with a clear path forward by focusing on several strategic imperatives. The strategy includes a growth-planning process that allows Ace stores to develop a prospective plan tailored to their unique business needs and aspirations.

**Company resources**

- Ace Hardware Newsroom
- Ace Master Brand Guide

*Updated April 2026*

**Latest brand innovations**

**Hey ARMA** launched in early 2026 as Ace's AI-powered virtual assistant, designed to help red-vested heroes serve customers more efficiently and confidently in-store.

- The tech supports associates with faster access to product knowledge, project guidance and recommendations, so they can spend more time helping customers.
- Read more: *Pending link to official press release.*

In September 2025, Ace Hardware partnered with leading on-demand delivery service **DoorDash Marketplace** to provide customers with fast, convenient access to thousands of essential products delivered to their door. In April 2026, Ace added **Uber Eats** to maximize convenience, no matter how customers choose to shop.

- Read more here: Ace Hardware and DoorDash Launch Exclusive Nationwide Partnership for On-Demand Delivery from Local Stores
- And here: Ace Hardware Joins Uber Eats to Expand Local, On-Demand Delivery for Customers Nationwide

**Ace YardRx** launched on Groundhog Day in 2025. Ace YardRx is Ace's prescriptive yard care subscription program that empowers homeowners with customized, seasonal solutions for growing and maintaining a beautiful yard.

- Complete with region-specific guidance, curated product bundles and trusted advice from local Ace lawn and garden experts, Ace YardRx delivers proactive, personal yard care with the right products at the right time.
- Read more here: Ace Hardware Launches Ace YardRx, Its First-Ever Subscription Service for Prescriptive Yard Care
- And here: Ace Hardware Returns to Groundhog Day as Ace YardRx Enters Its Second Year

In the second half of 2024, Ace introduced **Elevate Ace**, a next-generation store concept designed to enhance the in-store shopping experience.

- With premium brand showrooms, elevated customer service, an inspiring store design and innovative product assortments, Elevate Ace redefines the neighborhood hardware store — bringing inspiration, efficiency and connection to every aisle.
- Read more here: Ace Hardware Launches 'ELEVATE Ace' Experiential Store Format
- And here: Ace Hardware Marks One-Year Milestone of 'ELEVATE Ace' Experiential Store Format

In spring 2024, Ace Hardware launched **Loud Mouth**™ Barbeque — a lineup of barbecue sauces and seasonings crafted to ensure every bite is so unforgettable, it has to be shared.

- Ace has long been a destination for all things grilling. With this innovation, the retailer aims to unite people through a passion for barbecue — because when it's this good, you've got to get loud.
- Read more here: Ace Hardware Unveils Loud Mouth™ Barbeque

**Company timeline**

**1924 —** Entrepreneurs Richard Hesse, E. Gunnard Lindquist, Frank Burke and Oscar Fisher united their Chicago hardware stores into "Ace Stores."

- The company was named after the ace fighter pilots of World War I.

- Ace Stores was incorporated in 1928, and the company opened its first warehouse a year later.

**1930s —** In 1931, the name was changed to Ace Hardware Corp.
- Sales totaled $650,000 from 41 retailers.

**1940s –** By the end of the 1940s, Ace Hardware Corporation was supplying 133 Ace stores in seven states.

**1950s –** Wholesale sales totaled $24.5 million from 325 retail stores.

**1970s –** CEO Richard Hesse sold the company to the retailers, and Ace became a retailer-owned cooperative. Ace opened up to entrepreneurs wanting to invest in the business and own an Ace store.
- Shareholders elected the first board of directors comprised solely of retailers.
- Wholesale sales reached $384 million.

**1980s –** Ace had expended to all 50 states with over 4,000 stores and surpassed $1 billion in wholesale sales.

**1990s –** The 'New Retail Age of Ace' was launched to battle the big-box chain hardware stores and help ensure the company's growth for years to come.
- Ace begins partnering to raise money for Children's Miracle Network hospitals.
- Ace surpassed $3 billion in sales.

**2010s –** Ace surpassed $5 billion in sales and records first year with more than $100 million in net income.
- Ace launched Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines® marking the brand's first ever exclusive paint partnership with a hardware cooperative.

**2020s –** Ace surpassed $9 billion in revenue with $340.6 million in net income.

**2024 –** Ace celebrated its 100-year milestone with nearly 6,000 stores in neighborhoods worldwide.
- Ace launched Loud Mouth™ Barbeque and Ace Hardware Vintage Threads™ apparel.
- Ace unveiled the Elevate Ace store concept at the Fall Convention in Chicago.

**2025 –** Ace launched Ace YardRx, its first subscription model for prescriptive yard care.
- Ace partnered with DoorDash Marketplace to expand on convenience for customers.
- Ace ended 2025 with a record $10 billion in sales.

**2026 –** Ace launches Hey Arma, its AI-powered virtual assistant for store associates.

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