

Casters are found virtually everywhere, from office desk chairs to shipyards, from hospital beds to automotive factories. They range in size from the very small furniture casters to massive industrial casters, and individual load capacities span 100 pounds (45 kg) or less to 100,000 pounds (45 t).

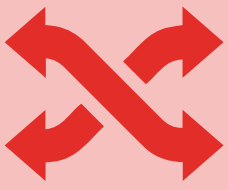
A caster is a wheeled device typically mounted to a larger object that enables relatively easy rolling movement of the object. Casters are essentially special housings that include a wheel, axle and braking options.

The right type of “rig” and “wheel” can improve any type product, in any industry to move easier and last longer.

## Types of Products



## Benefits



Versatility



Ergonomics



Adding Mobility



Time & Cost Savings



Strength & Durability



Design & Innovation

## ORIGIN OF CASTERS

Long before the invention of the modern casters and wheels that we use today, ancient Egyptians utilized logs to roll giant stone blocks to construct their pyramids. It might be surprising that the first wheel was not used to carry anything. Some 3500 years ago, the early Mesopotamians used wheels to make clay pottery.

The need for more manpower, is believed to have been the push for innovation. Wheels had already been extensively used for human transportation during this period. It is easy to imagine how the concept of using wheels to move around furniture came into existence. However, the use of wheeled furniture outside Europe only rose to popularity by the end of the 16th century.

The evolution of the variety and types of casters and wheels we know today, for all types of industries – continue to evolve.

## Interesting Fact:

- Casters were first patented by David A. Fisher in 1876 (Furniture Casters)
- Early caster wheels were made of wood or carved stone
- Otto Bayer and co-workers at IG Farben in Leverkusen, Germany, discovered and patented the chemistry of polyurethanes in 1937
- Charles Goodyear is credited with inventing the chemical process to create and manufacture pliable, waterproof, moldable rubber. He developed vulcanized rubber, for which he received patent number 3633 from the US Patent Office on June 15, 1844. However, the Mesoamericans used a more primitive stabilized rubber for balls and other objects as early as 1600 BC.

Institute of Caster and Wheel Manufacturers (ICWM) members are the Industry's leading suppliers of casters, wheels, and industrial trailer trucks, platform trucks and towline trucks. They supply caster and wheel solutions worldwide and in virtually every major manufacturing and distribution sector. The association was formed in 1933.

## ICWM MEMBERS...

Are committed to safety, innovation and providing the right solution to ensure peak performance.

Learn about our member companies, [www.mhi.org/icwm/members](http://www.mhi.org/icwm/members).

Join ICWM, [www.mhi.org/icwm](http://www.mhi.org/icwm).



## COMBINED EXPERIENCE

**914**

ICWM members have over 914 years of manufacturing, design and application experience.



## TESTING & DESIGN STANDARDS

ICWM defines design, testing and standards criteria. ICWM developed the American National Standard ANSI ICWM-2018, Vocabulary, Performance and Testing Requirements for Casters and Wheels. This standard is available here:

[bit.ly/2xRjYEM](http://bit.ly/2xRjYEM)

## RESOURCES

**100s**

Hundreds of resources for education and help. Access online website, [www.MHI.org](http://www.MHI.org), have direct contact\* with other members and network at MHI events\*\*.

\* Meetings are conducted in a safe harbor environment.

\*\*MHI events include MODEX, ProMat and Spring/Annual meetings and conferences.