

By the 1940s, the Paterson Plant employed several hundred workers. The company organized many events and activities for the employees, including the annual picnic, a company basketball team, the Annual Square Ball (Bowling) and the Okonite Deep Sea Fishing Trip. A companywide pension plan was established in 1954.

In June 1976, Okonite became the largest company in the United States to be employee-owned. Today, Okonite is headquartered in Ramsey, NJ, with plants in Orangeburg, SC (Compound Plant and Manufacturing Plant), Richmond, KY, Santa Maria, CA, Cumberland, RI and Paterson, NJ.



Family day at the Paterson Plant, 1959.
Courtesy of Okonite.



The Okonite Company baseball team, at the Paterson Plant, circa 1929.
The Paterson Museum Collection.

As of 2024, the Paterson Plant occupies 10 acres with a 271,900 square foot facility. The Paterson factory employs sixty people, not including the research and development staff. Many of the employees are second and third generation, whose parents and/or grandparents also worked for Okonite.

Okonite was coined in the 1880s, combining the receipt telegraph signal (O.K.) and the end of vulcanite (nite).

The Paterson plant's employees, 2020s.
Courtesy of Okonite.

