

# The Story of the Travel Mug

What did we do before the travel mug? Some people used to drive cars while holding an old ceramic mug filled with hot coffee. They would have one hand on the mug and the other hand shifting gears. This was before car cupholders were invented! That sounds like an accident waiting to happen, right? Let's learn more about the history of travel mugs and find out who invented them so we can thank the right person for our on-the-go drinks.

## What Is a Travel Mug?

A travel mug is a special cup that keeps drinks hot or cold for a long time. These mugs are usually made from plastic, stainless steel, or ceramic. They have a lid that helps prevent spills and a hole for drinking or a straw. Many travel mugs also have a handle, and almost all of them fit into car cupholders.

## Can a Travel Mug Be Patented?

Yes, travel mugs can be patented! They were invented around the same time as other useful things like printers and cell phones—in the 1970s! One of the first patents for a travel mug was given to a man named Joseph F. Corey in 1978. His design had a lid that didn't drip and an insulated inside that kept drinks hot or cold. People loved buying these mugs at gas stations all over the USA!

So, what is a baffle? A baffle is a vertical piece inside a mug that helps keep heat or cold in, and it also helps prevent spills by slowing down the movement of the drink. Joseph F. Corey was really smart!

The travel mug became even more popular thanks to Bob Sokolski, who started Whirley Industries. In the early 1980s, his company made travel mugs out of strong plastic with a lid that kept drinks inside. They were sold mostly at convenience stores, making them the first branded travel mugs!

## What Is the History of the Travel Mug?

The rise of plastic travel mugs started in the early 1980s, thanks to "coffee club" promotions at convenience stores. If you bought a mug at a place like Dunkin' Donuts, you could join a club and get discounts on refills.

In the 1990s, big coffee shops like Starbucks began selling travel mugs that changed with the seasons. These mugs became popular with many people who love both practical and stylish drinkware.

Over the last 20 years, travel mugs have become even better. They now have features like stainless steel walls, copper lining, vacuum insulation, built-in straws, and lids that lock to prevent leaks.

## What Are the Benefits of Using a Travel Mug?

There are many reasons why travel mugs are popular today:

- **Convenience:** Travel mugs let you take your favorite drink with you wherever you go. This is super helpful on busy mornings when you don't have time to stop for coffee or tea.
- **Less Waste:** Using a travel mug means you don't need to use a disposable cup, which helps keep our planet cleaner.
- **Fewer Spills:** Travel mugs are designed to keep your drinks from spilling, so you don't have to worry about making a mess.
- **Branding:** Travel mugs can also show off your business, sports team, or school, making them a great way to advertise!

Now you know the story of the travel mug and why it's so important for many people today!