



*The future of drainage*

**ACO Technologies plc**



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[www.aco.co.uk](http://www.aco.co.uk)

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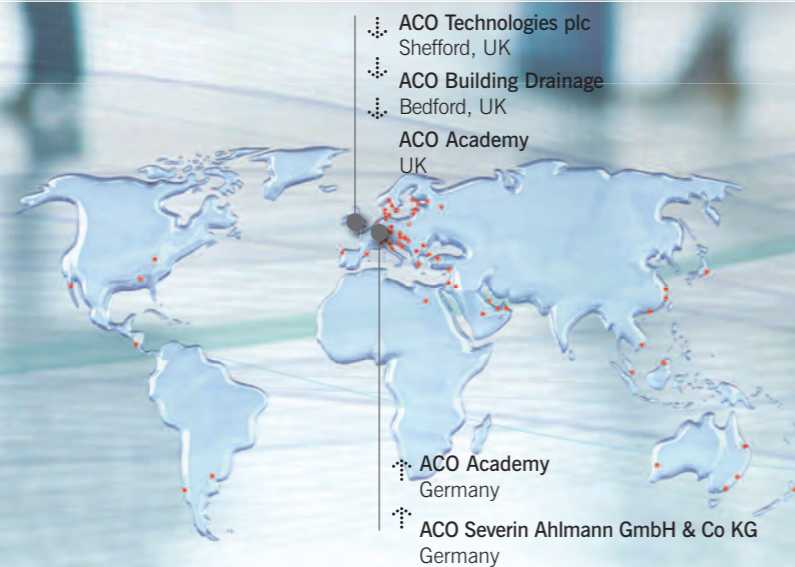
The history of ACO  
25 years of ACO in the UK

# THE ACO GROUP

ACO is recognised as a global leader in the development and manufacture of high performance surface water management systems. With 29 production facilities and 40 operations centres spread over four continents we have the human and technical resources available to work alongside you to achieve the optimum solution whatever challenges you face.

Founded in 1946, ACO remains a family owned and operated company. Our diverse culture enables us to draw on best practice from around the world to provide a range of innovative products and support services that set the standard for performance, reliability and value.

ACO Technologies has been in operation in the UK for over 25 years.



ACO's technical, manufacturing and support resources reach across the world. From a network of regional centres our engineering and development teams adapt our global solutions to your needs wherever you are based.



ACO Technologies plc  
Shefford, UK



ACO Building Drainage  
Bedford, UK



ACO Academy  
Training facilities in Germany  
and the UK



ACO Severin Ahlmann GmbH & Co KG  
Germany

# ACO WATER MANAGEMENT

## Civils + Infrastructure

The Civils + Infrastructure range has pioneered the management of surface water and today provides architects, specifiers and engineers with a complete package of integrated systems suitable for use across the entire spectrum of civil engineering projects.

Through client-based research and constant innovation, the Civils + Infrastructure division has evolved from its origins in line drainage to an award-winning supplier of an unrivalled range of products and support services that provide the complete and effective management of surface water: from system design through collection, cleaning, storing and on-site source control allowing the safe release of run-off back to natural watercourses.

Covering applications as diverse as retail and commercial development to major national transport and infrastructure projects, the Civils + Infrastructure range assures industry-leading sustainable drainage performance and environmental protection.

Building on the successes of our two Queen's Awards for Enterprise: Innovation, the division has further expanded its capabilities with the development and launch of oil separators, attenuation and infiltration tanks and stormwater control systems.



[Click here](#) to view the product range

**1 ACO KerbDrain®** is the first combined kerb drainage system of its kind to use recycled materials and be independently certified and Kitemarked to BS EN 1433:2002.

**2 ACO StormBrix** is an award-winning plastic geocellular stormwater management system. Designed for surface water infiltration and storage, its versatility allows it to be used in applications across all construction environments as a standalone solution or as part of an integrated sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) scheme.

**3 ACO Qmax®** is an award-winning continuous slot drainage system for high capacity drainage and attenuation. The system can cater for a wide range of applications to any load class, whilst delivering effective and economic surface water drainage.

**4 ACO Q-Ceptor** is an innovative range of Class 1 and Class 2 bypass and full retention oil separators. The robust, compact chambers are the ideal, cost effective solution for dealing with contaminated surface water run-off.



### Intelligent management of surface water

ACO's ability to constantly push the boundaries of water management has given architects, engineers and designers the freedom to create some of the world's most striking and iconic structures.

Major infrastructure projects, such as Heathrow Airport's award winning Terminal 5 have exploited ACO's extensive product range to overcome significant design challenges and demanding aesthetic requirements with stunning results.



# ACO WATER MANAGEMENT

## Urban + Landscape

The Urban + Landscape range is tailored to the demands of residential and commercial developments. Amongst its many application-specific products are drainage systems for drives, level doorway thresholds and disabled accesses, rainwater harvesting systems and permeable ground reinforcement systems that can be used to create additional parking for cars and caravans.

All products are supported by a comprehensive selection of accessories that increase their versatility and adaptability. Straightforward to install, the Urban + Landscape range is certified and tested to the highest performance standards for domestic and light to medium trafficked environments.



[Click here](#) to view the product range

**1** [ACO HexDrain®](#) is a channel drainage system made from recycled polypropylene and suitable for domestic and residential applications to Load Class A 15. Supplied as standard with a black composite grating, ACO HexDrain® features a wide range of accessories to aid installation in a variety of locations.

**2** [ACO RainDrain®](#) is a domestic channel drainage system made from Vienite®, ACO's recycled polymer concrete, and supplied as standard with a galvanised steel grating. Optional ductile iron gratings can be fitted to raise the Load Class to B 125.

**3** [ACO HexDrain® Brickslot](#) enhances ACO HexDrain® with the addition of a narrow offset slot grating, making the installed channel virtually invisible. It can be fitted up to a building or threshold edge in compliance with Building Regulations Part M.

**4** [ACO GroundGuard](#) is a lightweight ground reinforcement system for use with grass or gravel. Manufactured from recycled polyethylene and rated to a load of 250 tonnes per m<sup>2</sup>, it can be used to stabilise a grassed area to provide additional parking, or with gravel on a drive to avoid rutting and gravel dispersal.



### Meeting many requirements

Products from the Urban + Landscape range can deliver significant environmental benefits.

Many have recycled content up to 100% and are recyclable at the end of their life, while their use can assist a successful domestic SuDS scheme.

ACO GroundGuard, for instance, is virtually 100% porous, so there will be next to no runoff from it, while the ACO SoakAway™ system enables control of runoff from a drive in line with Building Regulations requirements.

# ACO BUILDING DRAINAGE

ACO Building Drainage specialises in the development of drainage products and corrosion resistant drainage systems for applications across the internal and external built environments. Conceived to eliminate design risk, to optimise installation and to minimise lifetime ownership cost, every product in the range delivers exceptional levels of performance, finish and durability.

The technical expertise, global resources and fabrication capacity within the ACO Building Drainage division make it possible for architects, engineers and contractors to realise the highest quality and value when selecting from our standard products, or when using our bespoke design service.

ACO Building Drainage products fully exploit both the aesthetic qualities and resilience of a number of high performance materials including stainless steel, polypropylene, galvanised steel, aluminum alloy, nickel bronze and gun metal.

Specialist drainage, grease management and fire-proofing systems provide safe and hygienic solutions for hospitals, chemical production, food processing, leisure centres, laboratories and catering facilities.

Stainless steel decorative tree grilles, laser-cut curved gratings and wet room drainage systems complement settings that demand the highest aesthetic finish.



**1** ACO AS1001 is a stainless steel channel from our Bespoke Drainage range. The range offers a wide variety of channels and gratings to meet the requirements of all applications.

**2** ACO Shower Channels complete with ACO LightLine illumination option. Sophisticated, barrier free bathroom drainage for domestic, hotel, commercial and leisure applications where style, function and performance are pre-requisites.

**3** All ACO grease separator management systems are designed to BS EN 1825 Part 1. Our grease separators will help to solve one of the greatest drainage problems faced in the kitchens and food processing areas - the accumulation of fats, oils and grease (FOGs) within the drainage system.

**4** ACO Modular 125 is a stainless steel linear drainage system fully tested and classified to BS EN 1433. A further development of our existing Modular system, it offers improved performance and flexibility and is suitable for most applications.



## Balancing performance with appearance

Achieving a successful balance between the sometimes conflicting demands of appearance and performance requires a deep understanding of capability of materials and the environment in which they are to be used.

Located on the bank of the River Thames, City Hall is one of London's most symbolically important buildings. Architects relied on the expertise and experience of ACO Building Drainage to create a unique stainless steel perimeter drainage system that could complement the sheer glass structure while ensuring the complete removal of all surface water.



# ACO LEADERSHIP

Innovation has been the hallmark of ACO Technologies' success in the United Kingdom. A constant drive to enhance, to improve and to break new ground has established leadership in our markets and loyalty with our customers and suppliers.

Continuous investment pushes forward the development of new materials and new products. Proven in their application and trusted by the architects, designers and contractors who use them, our products are the embodiment of our commitment and competence.

Every product range across the four divisions that make up ACO Technologies in the United Kingdom is optimised for its application, delivering class-leading performance and reliability.

## Divisions of ACO Technologies:

### ACO Water Management

Two ranges of surface water management systems covering all load class environments:

**Civils + Infrastructure:** medium and heavy duty applications.

**Urban + Landscape:** residential, landscape and light vehicle applications.

### ACO Building Drainage

Built environment water management systems and architectural products manufactured from corrosion resistant materials.

### ACO Sport

Specialist drainage systems for sports arenas, recreational facilities and stadiums.

### ACO Wildlife

Wildlife conservation products: amphibian fencing and tunnels, nest boxes, wildlife kerbs.



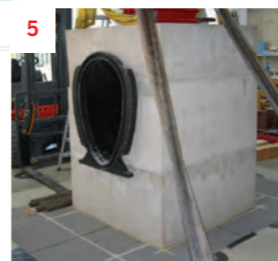
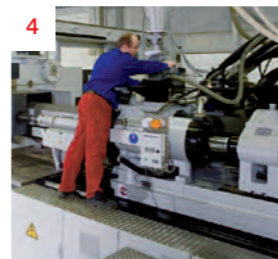
**1** Every ACO product range is individually designed to deliver optimum performance for its targeted application.

**2** State-of-the-art manufacturing processes such as rotational moulding ensure the highest levels of product quality and consistency.

**3** Within ACO's UK R&D centre, our teams exploit the latest design tools and fabrication techniques to pioneer the development of next-generation products.

**4** High strength, injection moulded recycled polypropylene is just one of the new materials that ACO has introduced across its range of water management and drainage systems.

**5** Independent and rigorous testing provides specifiers, engineers and contractors with absolute assurance that all ACO products satisfy every required performance standard.



## A company forged from innovation

Ground-breaking manufacturing processes, materials and testing procedures ensure that every product ACO develops sets a new benchmark for quality, performance and reliability.

All our foundries, testing and production facilities are continuously monitored to make sure they maintain the highest standards of energy efficiency, safety and environmental protection.

# ACO ASSURANCE

Whatever the location, scale, application or timeframe of your project, our commitment to you remains the same: partnership from initial contact right through the operational life of any ACO system.

Trust in the solutions we provide is the result of our investments in leading technology, design expertise and rigorous quality management. Unmatched in the industry, together they ensure absolute consistency and levels of assurance.

Our products too are trusted in their application. Every system we manufacture is tested beyond the requirements of the toughest performance standards.

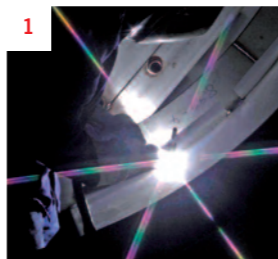


**1** Precision tooling including laser cutting systems deliver the highest levels of manufacturing accuracy and consistency.

**2** Continuous automated and manual checks carried out at key stages throughout all manufacturing processes form a critical part of our BSI accredited ISO 9001 Quality Management System and Kitemark certification.

**3** Ongoing site support and technical assistance ensure that every ACO installation maintains its optimum performance throughout its operational life.

**4** Through resourcing a nationwide technical support team, we are able to commit to work alongside engineers and contractors on site to make sure maximum benefit is gained from new products and installation techniques.



## Designed for the toughest applications

Formula 1 is a sport that demands, without compromise, the highest level of performance, durability and safety. Circuit designers around the world have placed their trust in ACO surface water drainage products. In pit lanes and around track perimeters, our systems are used to quickly remove run-off from the severest weather and prevent any build up of standing water.



# ACO SUPPORT

Having the right product where you want it, when you need it is vital to the success of any project. ACO has the largest stocking network of any water management system supplier in the country. It gives you the flexibility to maximise the efficiency of your operations by working on 'just-in-time' or through a long-term supply chain agreement.

We also operate the industry's largest and best qualified field, technical and sales support teams. Backed by a dedicated Design Centre at our manufacturing headquarters, our in-house engineers can liaise directly with your site team to resolve any challenge as quickly as possible.



**1** ACO Academy is a dedicated training and personnel development resource that provides a full range of CPD accredited courses for architects, engineers and contractors.

**2** Engineers within our UK Design Centre have the site experience and technical expertise to assist with any query.

**3** Through our nationwide stocking network, we have the capability and the capacity to supply products to meet the exact requirements of your project schedule.



## The ability to adapt to your business

The pace of change across the water management and drainage sectors is the fastest it has ever been - so keeping up to date with legislation and with all the benefits that new systems and advancing technologies bring with them can sometimes be difficult.

ACO Academy has developed a complete, versatile range of training resources that can be tailored to the individual requirements of your staff and your business. Residential courses are complemented by the unique ACO Academy Trailer which can bring all the latest developments directly to you through a series of compact courses that are delivered on your premises quickly and with minimum disruption.

# ACO AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ACO is dedicated to upholding the highest levels of environmental responsibility across every aspect of its organisation. Accredited with ISO 14001, we continuously strive, in partnership with our suppliers and customers, to improve energy efficiency and minimise the environmental impact of our products and services.

ACO has pioneered the development of solutions for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and has been at the forefront of the production of a new generation of ecologically-balanced, recycled materials such as Vienite®. We have also founded the principles of Value Engineering – a process that drives innovation by seeking to reduce the use of materials, minimise ground infrastructure and shorten installation times.



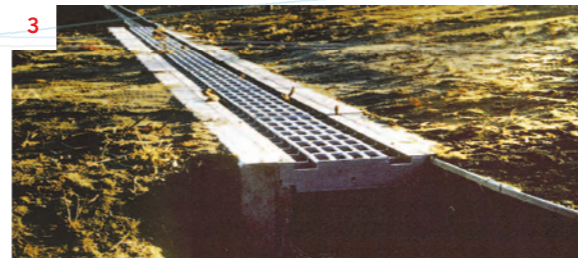
**1** In our efforts to minimise the environmental impact of our daily operations, all ACO staff are encouraged to continuously find ways of saving energy and minimising CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**2** ACO's Material Development Programme - responsible for the creation of the recycled and recyclable Vienite® - meets the growing demand for sustainable products made from locally-sourced materials.



**3** The ACO Wildlife product range, which includes toad tunnels and amphibian fencing systems, focuses on the protection of vulnerable species whose habitats are increasingly under threat.

**4** ACO is increasing its use of low-carbon forms of transportation as a key part of its integrated supply and distribution operations.



ISO 14001  
EMS 538781

## Responding to our changing climate

As weather patterns change and we experience greater periods of high intensity rainfall, the country's water management infrastructure has to adapt to minimise the potentially devastating effects of flooding.

ACO is working with national bodies, regional planners and local authorities to realise a new generation of catchment-balanced Sustainable Drainage Systems that embrace the latest surface water attenuation, infiltration and discharge systems.



# ACO SUCCESS

ACO has received many awards and accolades from inside and outside the construction industry. Honours such as Construction Product Manufacturer of the Year recognise our commitment to being a responsible organisation,

while our two Queen's Awards for Enterprise: Innovation highlight our success in leading the industry in its development of ground-breaking products that revolutionise both design philosophies and performance expectations.



- 1** ACO receives its first Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation from the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.
- 2** ACO receives its ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems accreditation certificate at Ecobuild 2009.

- 3** ACO Managing Director, Richard Hill and Market Development Director, Peter Ridgway receive the Construction Product Manufacturer of the Year Award.
- 4** ACO Water Management wins the coveted British Construction Industry Award in 2012 with an Product Design Innovation Award for ACO StormBrixx.



## Supporting the wider community

The construction industry charity, CRASH, deals directly with the effects of homelessness - an issue that is ever present in all areas of the country and one that can have far reaching effects on both individuals and communities.

ACO has been a patron of CRASH for many years, working alongside fellow industry organisations to reduce the impact of the problem through fundraising, product donations and volunteer support.



## ACO TECHNOLOGIES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

### Richard Hill – Managing Director

“In the quarter century since ACO established its UK operation we have witnessed unprecedented change across our industry. We have adapted and evolved over this time, but at the heart of our organisation the founding principles of both our founder, the late Severin Ahlmann, and our chairman, Hans-Julius Ahlmann, remain unaltered and as strong as ever.

“By ensuring we have a deep understanding of our markets we have been able to fully embrace change, using it to fuel creativity and to challenge convention. It has led us to establish a reputation for innovative, high quality products and has been behind the many awards and accolades we have received.

“Alongside celebrating this landmark anniversary we are looking to the future. Our products and support services have developed to reflect the broader specialisations of surface water management. These areas of expertise have now been brought together in one new division: ACO Water Management.

“It is an important step in the development of our organisation. It mirrors our ambition to lead the development of next-generation solutions capable of meeting the toughest environmental and performance specifications.”



Established in the UK  
for 25 years

# TIMELINE 1946 - 1995

**Severin Ahlmann founded ACO in Rendsburg, Germany.**

Working in concrete, the company produces a range of civil engineering components, sanitaryware and windows.



1946

**ACO flourishes and invests in new manufacturing facilities.**

The company expands its product range with pre-fabricated garages and drainage channels made from fibre reinforced concrete boards.



1960

**A symbolic breakthrough: the Munich Olympic Games.**

ACO wins the prestigious contract to supply a range of products to the Olympic stadium. ACO systems have been specified on every Olympic stadium since with the exception of Moscow.



1970

**1976 ACO broadens its horizons – the ACO Group is born.**

The company opens its first production sites outside Germany in Austria and Switzerland.

1980

**ACO invests in the UK.**

The ACO Group establishes its UK division, ACO Technologies plc in Shefford, Bedfordshire. Major R&D and manufacturing facilities lead new product development for the Group.



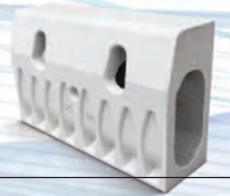
1984

**ACO becomes market leader in channel drainage.**

Its pioneering development of polymer concrete drainage systems moves ACO into new markets and onto large-scale specialist construction projects.

1990

1995 - CONCEPTION OF ACO KERBDRAIN



# TIMELINE 2000 - 2012

2001 - ACO KERBDRAIN RECEIVES QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE: INNOVATION

2001

The innovative concept of a moulded one-piece drainage system, introduced by ACO, is extended to all highways and industrial applications with the launch of ACO RoadDrain®.



2005 - THE CREATION OF ACO BUILDING DRAINAGE

2006

R&D teams from Germany and the UK worked together on the design and development of ACO HexDrain®. A major programme for the ACO Group, this innovation in plastic channel drainage saw over 1.3 million euros invested in a dedicated manufacturing facility.



2007 - 50% EXPANSION IN UK MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

2008

Launch of Vienite®, ACO's high strength recycled material and ACO MultiDrain™ PPD, the next generation of high quality, general purpose channel drainage systems.

2009 - THE CREATION OF ACO WATER MANAGEMENT



ACO Technologies celebrates its 25th year in the UK

2012

Launch of ACO StormBrixx, a unique and patented plastic geocellular stormwater management system



2012 - ACO TECHNOLOGIES WINS BRITISH CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AWARD FOR ACO STORMBRIXX

2000



2004

The launch of ACO Qmax®: a revolutionary high capacity slot drainage and surface water attenuation system that promotes the benefits of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Value Engineering.

2006, a year of recognition:

- Second Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation for ACO Qmax®
- ACO Technologies named Construction Product Manufacturer of the Year 2006
- Civils 2006 Innovation Awards: Best New Product, for ACO Qmax®
- Recognised for 'Innovation and Achievement' by the Construction Products Association

2010



2010

ACO becomes first manufacturer to supply a complete range of surface water management systems with the launch of high performance oil separators, stormwater infiltration and attenuation systems, and vortex flow controls.

2012



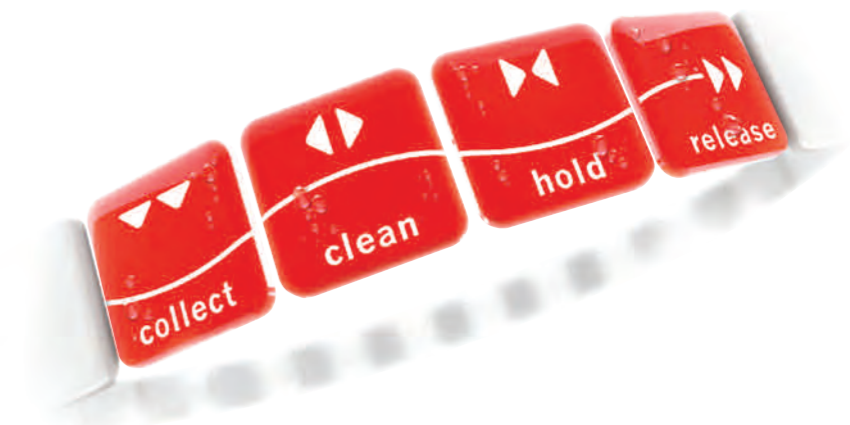
2012

New generation ACO Qmax® is launched

## Surface water management cycle

To help architects, designers and contractors meet the legal requirements that now tightly control the way surface water is managed; ACO has created its unique 'Surface Water Management Cycle' – **Collect, Clean, Hold, Release** – the four core processes now required for the complete and sustainable management of surface water drainage.

[Find out more.](#)



**The ACO Group: A strong family you can depend on.**

## Contact us

If you need further product, design or installation advice, please [click here](#) for a list of our key contacts.

## Follow us

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## Standards & Accreditations

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