

Timeline for Film History

1889 – Cellulose nitrate roll film (not 35 mm) was introduced by Eastman Kodak Company

1895 – Cellulose nitrate motion picture film was introduced

1912 – Cellulose nitrate sheet films and film packs were marketed by Eastman Kodak Company; X-ray film became available in cellulose nitrate

1920 – Cellulose nitrate 35 mm roll film; aerial film became available

ca. 1922 – Cellulose diacetate (a specific type of “cellulose acetate”) was introduced for 16 mm film by Eastman Kodak Company (cellulose nitrate was never used for 16 mm film)

ca. 1925 – Cellulose diacetate sheet film was introduced by Eastman Kodak Company

ca. 1930 – Edge marking cellulose nitrate with “Nitrate” began; cellulose diacetate film was marked with “Safety” to distinguish between the two films; cellulose acetate x-ray film and microfilm began to replace cellulose nitrate as the production of cellulose nitrate ended

1932 - Cellulose diacetate (a specific type of “cellulose acetate”) was introduced for 8 mm film by Eastman Kodak Company (cellulose nitrate was never used for 8 mm film)

1933 – Last year Eastman Kodak Company manufactured cellulose nitrate x-ray film

1935 – *Kodachrome* slide film was first introduced (cellulose acetate base)

ca. 1935 – Agfa, Defender, DuPont Defender and Hammer produced cellulose diacetate films

1938 – Discontinuation of 35 mm cellulose nitrate roll film (however, still photographers were known to use cellulose nitrate 35mm motion picture film after this date)

1939 – Discontinuation of portrait and commercial cellulose nitrate sheet film

1940 – Cellulose acetate aerial film was developed

1942 – First color negatives on a cellulose acetate base (Kodacolor); cellulose nitrate aerial film was discontinued

1949 – Discontinuation of cellulose nitrate film packs

ca. 1950 – Cellulose triacetate (a specific type of “cellulose acetate”) film was widely produced and quickly took over the cellulose film diacetate market. As of 2009, it was still the most widely used film-base for amateur roll film and motion picture film (color and B&W)

1951 – Discontinuation of the production of cellulose nitrate motion picture film by Eastman Kodak Company (other companies may have produced it into the late 1950's)

1955 – First polyester-based films (most commonly found in: sheet films after 1970s, x-ray films after 1955, aerial films after 1960s)

NB—Film stocks were used until depleted, even after the final date of manufacture