

# City Beat

*There are eight million stories in my albums. This is one of them...*

Is there anyone in the U.S. who hasn't used Morton's salt? **Morton Salt** is an American food company producing salt for food, water conditioning, industrial, agricultural, and road/highway use. Based in Chicago, the business is North America's leading producer and marketer of salt. It is a subsidiary of the German mining company K+S.

The company began in 1848 as a small sales agency, E. I. Wheeler, started by the Onondaga salt companies to sell their salt to the Midwest. In 1910, the business, which had by that time become both a manufacturer and a merchant of salt, was incorporated as the Morton Salt Company. It was named after the owner and founder, Joy Morton, the son of J. Sterling Morton who founded Arbor Day. Joy Morton started working for E. I. Wheeler in 1880, buying into the company for \$10,000, with which he bought a fleet of lake boats to move salt west. In 1969, the name 'Morton-Norwich' came into use.

In 1896, Alfred Bevis founded the Bevis Rock Salt Company, building on the failed Lyons salt company he had previously invested in and run. His daughter, Florence, married Dr. Charles Howard Longstreth, whom Bevis brought into both the Lyons and Bevis salt companies as an executive. Their son, Bevis Longstreth, became president and general manager on his return from service in World War I. In 1919, Morton Salt acquired Bevis. About ten years later, Bevis Longstreth founded Thiokol Corporation, which merged with Morton Salt in 1982 to form Morton-Thiokol. This merger was divested in 1989, following the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, which was blamed on Morton-Thiokol products. Morton received the company's consumer chemical products divisions, while Thiokol retained only the space propulsion systems concern.

In 1999, Morton Salt was acquired by the Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Company, Inc. and operated as a division of that company along with the Canadian Salt Company (which Morton had acquired in 1954).

On April 2, 2009, it was reported that Morton Salt was being acquired by German fertilizer and salt company K+S for a total enterprise value of US\$1.7 billion. The sale, completed by October 2009, was in conjunction with the Dow Chemical Company's takeover of Rohm and Haas.

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohm\\_and\\_Haas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohm_and_Haas)]

