

# 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION — HUBER STAINLESS STEEL MANHOLE COVERS

## BACKGROUND AND CHALLENGES

In the 1950s and 1960s, standard manhole covers made from painted or galvanized steel required ongoing maintenance. Municipalities faced issues with:

- Corrosion and degradation over time
- Labor-intensive upkeep, including repainting
- Safety risks due to material fatigue and exposure

Customers began asking for a longer-lasting, low-maintenance alternative—one that could stand the test of time in tough utility environments.

## SOLUTIONS PROVIDED BY HUBER TECHNOLOGY, INC.

In the early 1970s, company owners Hans and Karl-Josef Huber made a bold decision: to engineer the first stainless steel manhole cover, despite high costs and limited availability of the material at the time.

Leveraging decades of steel fabrication expertise, HUBER handcrafted the first units for water utilities in the Nuremberg area. Each unit was:

- Tailored to customer specifications
- Built with corrosion-resistant stainless steel
- Designed to eliminate the need for regular surface maintenance

The long-term result: 50+ years of uninterrupted field performance, proving the superior lifecycle value of stainless steel solutions.



## SOLUTIONS PROVIDED BY HUBER TECHNOLOGY, INC.

- 1970s – First stainless steel manhole covers installed in Germany
- 1990 – Complete transition to stainless steel products
- 2000s–2020s – Global expansion, including U.S. water and wastewater markets
- 2024 – Launch of the HUBER SD50 SAP (Safe Access Pro) anniversary model



## CUSTOMER FEEDBACK-DRIVEN INNOVATION

HUBER's R&D has always been customer-led. Field input directly resulted in features such as:

- Gas-assist lifting for safer, ergonomic access
- Concealed ventilation to meet odor-control needs
- Reinforced locking systems for utility security
- Back pressure and flood resistance for climate resiliency

Each improvement came from a real-world challenge raised by engineers, field crews, or utility directors.

## RESULTS

### 50+ Years Later:

- HUBER stainless steel covers remain in operation across Germany and Europe
- The use of stainless steel in manhole covers has become the industry norm
- HUBER products are now featured in critical infrastructure projects worldwide, including throughout the United States

### Cost of Ownership Benefits:

- 20+ year lifecycle without repainting
- No corrosion-related replacements
- Reduced labor and maintenance budgets
- 100% recyclable materials

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

### SD50 SAP

Launched to celebrate 50 years of stainless innovation, the SD50 SAP integrates decades of field-driven features:

- Integrated fall protection (up to 440 lbs)
- Gas-spring lifting for operator safety
- Concealed ventilation & odor-tight sealing
- Digital and mechanical locking options
- Custom sizes and load ratings
- 50 customer-driven reasons led to the most advanced cover in HUBER history.

## WHY IT MATTERS

The HUBER manhole cover isn't just a lid—it's a symbol of listening, innovation, and performance that lasts generations. In a world where infrastructure demands reliability and sustainability, HUBER stainless steel access solutions continue to deliver.

## ABOUT HUBER TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Headquartered in Denver, North Carolina, HUBER Technology, Inc. operates a 206,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility that houses offices, training centers, and advanced manufacturing capabilities. This enables us to design, produce, and deliver a wide range of wastewater treatment equipment, from dewatering screw press systems, headworks screens, grit handling, septage receiving, tertiary filtration and equipment and drying of biosolids equipment for use in the water and wastewater industry.

