

# ROYAL WORCESTER

# FACTORY MARKS

## 1862 TO THE PRESENT DAY

The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co. Ltd. was formed in 1862 and since that time pieces have been marked with some type of date code.

The standard printed factory mark, illustrated here, includes the number 51 in the centre which refers to the year 1751 when the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by Dr. John Wall. It can appear in any colour.



Between 1862 and 1867 specific indications of the year of manufacture are rare, but may sometimes be found in the form of the last two figures of the date, e.g. 64 for 1864, printed below the standard mark.

From 1867 a letter system was also used to indicate the year of manufacture. From 1876 the crown sits down onto the circle.



- A = 1867    K = 1875    U = 1883
- B = 1868    L = 1876    V = 1884
- C = 1869    M = 1877    W = 1885
- D = 1870    N = 1878    X = 1886
- E = 1871    P = 1879    Y = 1887
- G = 1872    R = 1880    Z = 1888
- H = 1873    S = 1881    O = 1889
- I = 1874    T = 1882    a = 1890

From 1891 pieces were coded with a system of dots and/or symbols.

- 1891 'Royal Worcester England' added
- 1892 One dot
- 1893 Two dots
- 1894 Three dots



This system continued until 1915 when 24 dots are arranged around the standard printed mark.

From 1916 a small star or asterisk appears below the mark.

- 1916 \* below the mark
- 1917 \* and one dot
- 1918 \* and two dots

An extra dot was added each year until 1927 when 11 dots are arranged around the standard printed mark.

- 1928 □ & the words 'made in England'
- 1929 ◇
- 1930 =
- 1931 ○
- 1932 ○○
- 1933 ○○○
- 1934 ○○○○



This continued until 1941 when there were 9 dots and the triple circle mark.

From c. 1942 the vast majority of factory stamps were printed in black with the following codes below.

- 1942-48 no dating system was used
- 1949 V
- 1950 W
- 1951 W.
- 1952 .W.
- 1953 .W..

This continued until 1963 when 13 dots are arranged around the W. After 1956 the letter W was nearly always substituted with a letter R in a circle, i.e. 1960 = R or W under the circle with 10 dots.

From 1966 no date coding system was used, but on tableware the year the pattern was introduced is stated next to the pattern name.

In 1974 the current format of factory stamp was adopted.

The date included is the year of introduction of the design, not the date of manufacture.

In April 1988 a system of year of manufacture identification that fitted with that used by Spode was introduced and an M within a diamond was incorporated below the factory mark.

In January 1989 new factory stamps were phased in with N in place of the M.

Soon afterward it was recognised that considerable benefit could be gained from lithographer identification, in terms of quality control and identification of a source of error, and black numbers were introduced. These numbers were replaced with grey ones in August to reduce their visual impact.

A new system from January 1990 introduced a printed grey lithographer identification number plus a suffix to signify the year:

Printed in grey	Printed in white
39 - 0 = 1990	39 - 00 = 2000
39 - 1 = 1991	39 - 01 = 2001
39 - 2 = 1992	39 - 02 = 2002
39 - 3 = 1993	39 - 03 = 2003
39 - 4 = 1994	
39 - 5 = 1995	
39 - 6 = 1996	

In 1990 all factory stamps reverted to the R (signifying registered) form under the mark.

