

New Technology

The 1920s were a time of swift technological improvement and discovery. Many household items commonly used today were invented or turned into feasible commercial products during the 1920s such as vacuum cleaners, radio, television, and refrigerators. The sale of products like these made life easier for all who could afford them, and these products fueled the rapidly expanding consumer economy of the time as customers often paid with credit through easy installment plans.

Other notable advancements in technology include major health breakthroughs such as the discovery of penicillin and insulin, attempts to use scientific principles to accurately predict weather patterns, the understanding of atoms and subatomic particles, and the first launch of a rudimentary liquid-fuel rocket in 1926.

One specific example of technological advancement during the 1920s was the first live television broadcast from a flying airplane. C. Francis Jenkins used a combination of photographic lens and radio-vision equipment to transmit images of the land beneath and airplane while in flight. While many saw it as a simple wonder to behold, other groups such as the American government began to consider using such a technology for practical purposes, such as surveying proposed airways, mapping isolated regions of the country, and monitoring damage caused by natural disasters.

