





In 1991, Ron van Bergen left the Royal Netherlands Army, where he had been working as an instructor in the Infantry since 1980. After studying at home, he and his partner Judith van Steensel founded GROBÉ Nederland, a company specializing in cleaning products and lubricants. In 1992, the cleaning products were mainly sold from Groningen to the hospitality industry, cleaning companies, and butchers, but this changed at the end of 1992 when demand from the painting industry for a replacement for ammonia increased. GROBÉ Nederland had since moved to Assen and was producing its own cleaning products on Philipsweg.



Ron developed an environmentally friendly, non-foaming degreaser that contained all the beneficial properties of ammonia. Universol was very well received in the painting industry, and in 1994, an article about the new ammonia substitute appeared in Eisma Vakpers.







However, GROBÉ Nederland was growing fast and a new factory in 2002 in Kolham has been opened. Universol has now become famous as a professional brand in the paint industry or coating sector. Every paint wholesaler in the Netherlands has virtually included Universol in its delivery package. Universol is now being introduced into the market in Belgium, Germany and UK.



After the early death of Judith van Steensel in 2005, the factory in Kolham is closed and the production and rights of Universol is being housed at Chemtec Chemicals in Rotterdam. Next to Universol, the well-known brand names; Behangbikker and Microsol have been taken into the market as well through Chemtec Chemicals. Universol is receiving a new impulse after the acquisition in 2010 from Chemtec Chemicals by Rustoleum in which is a subsidiary of RPM Inc.





In 2025, Grobe Netherlands will take over the production and sales of Universol from Rust-Oleum.
Production takes place in a state-of-the-art factory in Oosterhout. GROBÉ's office is located on Keizersgracht in Amsterdam, the city's most beautiful canal.

In August 2025, Universol will obtain the EU Ecolabel.

