

A Case of Tunnel Vision - Orlando's New Sea Life Aquarium Features Unique 360° Underwater Ocean Tunnel Made by Reynolds Polymer Technology

An assortment of acrylic tunnels, tubes, and bubbles make for unique viewing opportunities at Sea Life Orlando. R-Cast® Acrylic can offer endless options for aquarium exhibits and creative ways to entertain guests.



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Sea Life Orlando, now one of the region's largest aquariums, is open and prospering. SLO is a successful blend of traditional aquarium attributes and technological features. The aquarium has some 30 different aquatic displays and nearly 200,000 gallons of water. Interactive "talking" aquarium feeds and flat screen HD theaters educate guests on the 5,000 different sea creatures that call the facility home.

Many who visit are reporting tunnel vision – a spectacular 360 degrees of it. This is due to a unique feature at Sea Life Orlando – a 20 foot long, unabridged tunnel that provides panoramic views of the surrounding underwater world. This is a rarity as most aquarium tunnels only provide 180 degrees of observation angle. The tunnel has a roomy diameter of nine feet and was constructed from nearly 15,000 pounds of pristine acrylic. Two-inch thick R-Cast® walls are enough to hold the water safely at bay while allowing guests to clearly witness sea turtles passing by overhead. Sandbar sharks, with their distinctive dorsal fins cutting through the water, swim only inches away at eye level.

Also unique at Orlando is a seven-foot tall R-Cast® viewing tube that provides sight into the Atlantic Tank, the aquarium's largest exhibit. As rays pass by above and below, a sunken

Mayan statue gives the exhibit an aged mystique. It is as though perhaps fish and statue had been around for ages and were only recently discovered by man. From here one has a perfect vantage point to observe the 360° ocean tunnel as others walk through it in the distance, their bodies oddly distorted by the water in-between.

Reynolds Polymer provided a variety of panels for Sea Life Orlando, including an 11 foot long demi-tunnel, a 20 foot long, 180 degree underwater tunnel with a concrete stem-wall, and several concave viewing "bubbles" that allow visitors to seemingly poke their heads into the ocean.

Shipping 15,000 pound tunnels across the country is no small feat,

especially when they must arrive at their destination without a scratch. For the ocean tunnel, a custom, cylindrical, steel support frame had to be constructed in order to ensure safe delivery. This was in addition to the existing measures that are always taken by RPT's shipping team, including Coroplast wrapping and reinforced edge protection for all panels.

"The same care that we put into our design and manufacturing processes also goes into our logistics services," said Mike Nedrow, Director of Logistics at RPT. "Coordinating with general contractors to ensure a safe, speedy delivery is what often sets us apart from others in the industry."



Sea Life Orlando features 30 aquatic displays, technological learning features, thousands of specimens of ocean life and a deftly lit interior.



As seen from the seven-foot viewing tube, visitors walk through the 360 degree ocean tunnel at Sea Life Orlando.

About Reynolds Polymer Technology, Inc.

During its 30 years in business, Reynolds Polymer Technology, Inc. has completed more than 1,900 projects in 57 countries, including the Aquadom in Berlin, Shark Reef in Las Vegas, and many other custom works. Reynolds is the manufacturer, fabricator, designer, and installer of R-Cast® acrylic sheets. The company is constantly raising the standard for what can be done with acrylic resins, and their products have been used extensively in the architectural, signage, aquarium, water-retaining, and scientific industries. Headquartered in Grand Junction, Colorado, Reynolds Polymer also has operations in Rayong, Thailand. Visit www.reynoldspolymer.com for more information. Proud member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

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