

Toledo Transformation! The Improved Toledo Zoo Aquarium Has Opened with A Collection of New Exhibits and 25,000 pounds of R-Cast® Acrylic by Reynolds Polymer Technology

The culmination of a two-and-one-half-year renovation effort, the newly unveiled facility has brought a welcome variety of educational exhibits and sea life to the community.



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There is plenty to talk about inside the Toledo Zoo's new aquarium, not the least of which are the over 3,000 marine animals thriving inside the 178,000 gallons of water. This aquarium has in fact more than quadrupled in size from the 46,000 gallons that it used to house, yet still managed to preserve a historic exterior which was originally constructed during the Great Depression. What you won't find here is a lack of creatures – from sharks, to dappled tropical fish, eels, and even sea nettles.

The Pacific Reef tank is the largest in the new aquarium. This exhibit holds 90,000 gallons of saltwater, making it over nine times the size of the most substantial pool that the zoo enjoyed in the past. This is large enough to allow divers to interact with the public while giving live feeding demonstrations, which have become highly popular among visitors. All of this underwater activity is made possible via a polygon shaped tank containing five R-Cast® panels weighing up to 3,000 pounds apiece. Each window is nearly nine-feet high with five inches of required thickness to keep the ocean, and zebra sharks, safely contained.

Reynolds Polymer designed two 25-foot long, seven-foot high R-Cast® panels that allow guests a broad view into the Gulf of Mexico exhibit which has been carefully filled with sharks, eels, turtles, and rays. Each window is made from a bonded panel of monolithic acrylic that was carefully

installed in one piece while weighing 7,000 pounds. Large boulders and ambient lighting complete the clean feel of this display, which provides the best opportunity to view sharks in the state. A tiled mural of the US is featured on the opposite wall, reminding one that the real gulf is in fact quite far away, yet it is represented wonderfully at Toledo Zoo.

Truly unique to this facility is a specially crafted touch-pool featuring a friendly school of sea rays. With their barbs removed for safety, these creatures are soft and gentle to the touch and a crowd favorite. Views into the depths of the display are made possible by a 10-foot long, transparent R-Cast® panel which was placed at the perfect height for curious children.

RPT provided many other panels at Toledo Zoo, including two 11-foot long rectangular windows that give views of large freshwater fish, a pop-in dome providing for a close-up look inside the polygon tank, and an 18-foot long flat panel proving views into a rainforest habitat containing river rays.

"We at Reynolds Polymer make a product that serves communities in many ways," said Dan David, Director of Sales for Water Retaining Projects. "Aquariums provide ample opportunities for entertainment, education, and conservation. There is no better example of this than Toledo Zoo. The community should be very proud of their zoo and Reynolds Polymer is happy to have been a part of this exciting addition."



A child looks on excitedly at the display of ocean plant and animal life inside the Pacific Reef tank at the Toledo Zoo aquarium.



A stingray greets visitors at the Toledo Zoo's new touch-pool. The view is made possible via a ten-foot wide viewing window made of R-Cast® acrylic.

About Reynolds Polymer Technology, Inc.

During its 30 years in business, Reynolds Polymer Technology, Inc. has completed more than 1,600 projects in 53 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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