



Indoor Swimming Pools Application Profile

Today, indoor swimming pools are used for more than just recreation. And indoor water parks have gained popularity. Activities such as swimming lessons, kayaking, SCUBA diving instruction and aquatic exercise are scheduled daily. Communication between swimmers, lifeguards and instructors during these activities may be disrupted because of the echo.

Most people have experienced the echo heard in indoor pools. Several aspects of pool designs contribute to the echo: cement, tile, glass and other hard, flat surfaces such as water. In fact, water has been found to be a significant source of echo.

SONEX® Valueline Panels control echo at Willow Valley Retirement Communities

Willow Valley Retirement Communities near Lancaster, Pennsylvania needed a solution to their indoor pool's echo problem. The pool hosts a multitude of activities, including aquatic exercise classes and pool therapy, where the instructors on the deck must be able to hear participants in the water. SONEX Valueline Panels were installed on the ceiling and the difference was noticed immediately.

"Testing completed before the installation showed that sound reverberation was considerable," explained John G. Swanson, president of Willow Valley Retirement Management, Inc. "After SONEX was installed, testing showed a significant improvement. The difference is very apparent."

SONEX Valueline Panels improve communication and appearance in Valley Shore YMCA

SONEX Valueline Panels were also installed within the indoor pool area at Valley Shore YMCA in Westbrook, Connecticut. Existing acoustical panels had lost much of their effectiveness and had begun to crumble to the touch in the humid, chlorinated environment. They were replaced with pinta's SONEX Panels to reduce echo, making the pool area safer and more conducive to instruction and recreation.

"Echo is definitely a potential danger for aquatic instructors and lifeguards," said Heather Husted, assistant aquatic director at Valley Shore YMCA. "The SONEX Panels definitely make it easier for lifeguards and instructors to communicate with swimmers. And that results in a safer pool environment."

"SONEX Valueline is extremely effective at removing the annoying echo," said Husted. "Since the panels will be in place for more than thirty years, we chose SONEX [Panels] for their long-term durability and effectiveness."

Because of a vaulted ceiling over the pool, the YMCA installed the panels near the end walls. The attractive convoluted pattern of the panels complemented the pool's décor.

SONEX Panels absorb sound energy, preventing sound waves from bouncing between hard parallel surfaces such as tile, glass, metal and water surfaces. For optimal absorption, the panels should be installed on the ceiling or rafters and the upper portion of the walls.

Made from pinta's willtec® foam, SONEX Panels pass UL 181 and ASTM G21 tests for microbial growth and fungus resistance and are Class 1 fire-rated for flame spread and smoke density.