

PermaLynx helps build a village

Marywood University

■ Northeast Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

In February 2005, Marywood University, a Catholic university founded by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and located in the scenic Pocono Mountains of northeast Pennsylvania, began construction on a retirement village for the school's retiring clergy. The project's contractor, Yannuzzi, Inc. selected the Victaulic PermaLynx push-to-connect copper mechanical joining system for the project's domestic water services to determine the feasibility of such technology and systems on commercial construction projects.



"We were very eager to test the PermaLynx system first hand," said project foreman Mike Awdakimow, Yannuzzi, Inc. "The technology promised greater speed, flexibility and safety – all of which are critical elements in any build."

CHALLENGES

Extreme weather conditions and several significant change orders in piping layout were easily accommodated by the PermaLynx push-to-connect system where traditional methods would have failed.

During the first two months of construction, the build was plagued by severe weather, with snow, ice and water infiltrating the open shell of the building and keeping

piping and electrical systems wet. Using the PermaLynx push-to-connect system, which unlike sweat copper systems can be installed wet, installers were able to continue construction of the pipe work. Routing the pipe work through the roof rafters was no concern for the General Contractor and installers. Since PermaLynx is a

no-flame installation, they could work in this confined space without concern of fire.

PERMALYNX PROVIDES MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS

Crews quickly embraced the new process and began

experimenting with the products to increase job site efficiency. As construction progressed, the contractor and installers devised innovative methods to improve efficiency and ensure uniform tube end preparation in accordance with Victaulic guidelines.

"We got a big speed boost by chucking the PermaLynx prep tool into the Ridgid® 300 power drive. This made the chamfer and deburring easy. It let us install our mains at a very high speed," said Awdakimow.

"You get much faster as you use the product. At the start, a four-man crew did 120 joints in a week. Now, a three-man crew does a floor (650 joints) in four-and-a-half days," added Awdakimow. "PermaLynx is very fast. If

Case history

anyone tells you sweating copper is faster than PermaLynx, don't believe it!"

Project managers and installers were equally satisfied with the adaptability of the PermaLynx system to tightly confined areas. During the project, the owner initiated several significant changes to the piping layout. To relocate 120 shower control valves behind molded fiberglass tub units, installers had to maneuver in areas barely large enough to accommodate their hands, let alone torches, crimping tools or other cumbersome equipment. Traditional methods would have required removing wall partitions or other costly structural alterations.

Installers praised another key benefit of the PermaLynx system – the elimination of propane



torches and the inherent risk of structural fire and simple burns associated with sweating copper. In addition to solder drips, tinning sweat joints – a technique requiring the installer to wipe a newly sweated joint with a damp cloth to smooth and clean the joint while still hot – often results in minor-to-serious burns to installers. Workers spoke of their physical scars from years of sweating and tinning copper joints, showing burn marks that dotted their hands and arms.

"The PermaLynx system performed beyond our expectations on the project and its versatility allowed us to meet several challenges and change orders that normally would have required costly alterations and schedule delays," said [Dominic Yannuzzi, owner, Yannuzzi, Inc.]. "And for sheer speed – PermaLynx just can't be matched."

OWNER:

Marywood University

CONTRACTOR:

Yannuzzi, Inc.

SOLUTIONS:

PermaLynx fittings and valves in sizes ½", ¾", 1", 1-¼" and 1-½" (including elbows, tees, reducing tees, couplings, reducers, threaded adapters and street fittings)

COMPLETED DATE:

December 2005

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**– Mike Awdakimow
Yannuzzi, Inc.**

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