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Aspen Snowmass Project Profile

CUSTOMER: Snowmass Mountain Condominiums

APPLICATION: Hydronic snow melting system

LOCATION: Snowmass, CO

CONTRACTOR: 2H Mechanical

Viega snow melting protects parking lots in Colorado

The Snowmass Mountain Condominiums in Snowmass Village, CO, now offer residential parking areas that will remain free of ice and snow all winter long, thanks to a Viega snow melting system and the efforts of 2H Mechanical LLC.

Located around 8,700 feet above sea level, the Snowmass Mountain Condominiums are only seven miles from Aspen and provide breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains as well as access to the hiking, biking and skiing activities at Snowmass Village.

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2H Mechanical LLC out of Grand Junction, CO, installed more than 25,000 feet of ViegaPEX™ Barrier tubing in the parking lots and driveways of the condominiums. Tom Vagell, Vice President of Plumbing at 2H Mechanical, has been in the industry since 1975 and has previous experience installing snow melting systems.



Founded in 2005, 2H Mechanical LLC offers plumbing, HVAC and refrigeration services in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota and Montana. Vagell explained that the condominiums themselves are built into the side of a mountain, which is common for the area. The existing parking lots for the condominium residents were rimmed by retaining walls that were failing after many years of wear.

“They had to redo the parking lot,” Vagell said. “They had to take all of it out and make new retaining walls and bore into bedrock to anchor these concrete blocks in place. Then, we did the snow melt system just before they put down four inches of concrete.”

Viega offers a complete hydronic snow melting solution for residential, commercial and industrial applications. All it takes is ViegaPEX Barrier tubing installed in a concrete slab and the proper controls for any residential, commercial or industrial setting to be snow-free. Vagell has installed other snow melting systems before, mainly because Viega snow melting systems weren’t available at the time. Vagell stated that

his relationship with his sales rep is what convinced them to install Viega snow melting systems in this project.

“This was a design/build,” Vagell said. “It was really important for us to align ourselves with a good supplier and manufacturer. We really had to be on the same page. I needed everybody’s input in design from the beginning. Viega did a great job on the drawings and working with our mechanical engineering team.”

Vagell believes that it’s the service that sets Viega systems apart from other manufacturers. For this project and others, he was looking for a partner who was going to take care of him and his team.

“Everybody and his brother makes this tubing now,” Vagell said. “It’s more about relationships to me. We want the best product for the money but, in this case, everybody had to be on board very early in the game.”

Vagell explained that the project design actually started two years earlier. In a design/build project like the Snowmass



Mountain Condominiums, the amount of up-front work was extensive. But Viega was willing to work with him and his team even though 2H Mechanical hadn’t actually purchased any products yet.

“Viega did drawings,” Vagell said, “not only initial but revised drawings a couple of times to stay on board as we progressed. That was very important to us.”

Vagell and 2H Mechanical finished work on the Snowmass Mountain Condominiums and just after they had the system working, Snowmass Village had a light snow storm, around 3" to 5", and Vagell reported that the snow melting system worked well.

“The service was excellent,” Vagell said. “I couldn’t ask for better service.”

For more information on Viega products, visit www.Viega.us, or call toll free: 800-976-9819.