

# Plumbing Engineer®

## 2021

### MANUFACTURER SPOTLIGHT



**“We Specify it on every project – we can’t think of a good reason not to!”**

OCI Associates in Maitland, FL have been specifying Aqua-Rex since 2016. They are engineers for a wide range of projects including healthcare, education and commercial across the state of Florida. “Most of Florida has hard water, but some parts of the state it’s not so hard,” says Genaine Bailey, “but even where the water is quite soft, in Cape Coral, FL for example, we still specify Aqua-Rex.”

She gives a number of reasons, the most important of which is that it is just as effective as a conventional water softener in terms of scale control, but it doesn’t have all the problems associated with ion exchange softeners. More recently this was confirmed by test results under IAPMO IGC 335, the first US protocol defining de-scaling performance. Aqua-Rex is still the only product of its type with such independent, third party performance verification.

Aqua-Rex is a more reliable technology than conventional softeners which need to be continuously maintained, calibrated and most laboriously, filled up with salt – jobs that often fall off the radar and are forgotten. A saltless softener is a non-functioning softener. Aqua-Rex on the other hand needs no maintenance and is warranted for 20 years!

Typical installed cost for an assisted living home is around \$4,000 and the ongoing cost is just a tiny amount for electricity. Another thing, and very important on many sites, it doesn’t have any footprint. You can hang it from the pipe on which it is installed so it will fit into the smallest of plant rooms.

A huge advantage over conventional salt softeners is you can easily treat both hot and cold water services. This means you get none of the scale you see on shower heads and countertops nor inside mixing valves, a problem when you only soften the hot services. It also means that the cold water is fully potable with none of the health issues or taste of sodium enriched water.

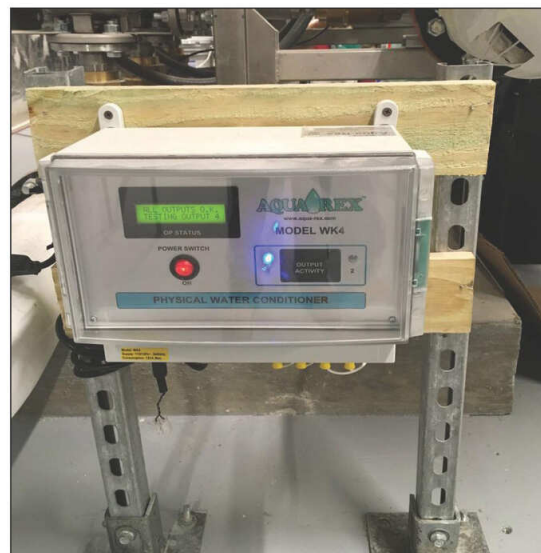
This brings us to the ongoing environmental and cost benefits of using Aqua-Rex. There is less water being wasted on regeneration and less damage to the environment from chlorides in the wastewater. Remember, once chlorides are dumped into the aquifer, they are there forever. There is no natural means of getting rid of them and they are very sensitive about their aquifers in Florida!

Genaine admits that sometimes the owner will value

engineer the Aqua-Rex out of the project. This especially happens when they are going to flip the property. It is a very short sighted policy, but at least Aqua-Rex is an easy retrofit for the new owner. Genaine can relax knowing there can be no comeback in the future for not specifying water treatment in the original plan. Her view is that by specifying Aqua-Rex on every project she can be confident that there will never be any hard water issues in any project of hers, anywhere, ever again.

The point about specifying Aqua-Rex is that it eliminates the “Shall we – Shan’t we” decision about installing water treatment on a project. In very hard water areas it is not a difficult choice to make. In areas with softer water, or subject to changing supply sources, the decision has always been more difficult. Given the low cost, simplicity of install and most importantly, no requirement for servicing – ever – what reason could there be for not specifying it?

Go to the Technical Library at [www.aqua-rex.com](http://www.aqua-rex.com) for further information or call our Las Vegas office on 702-304-2170. ●





## CASE STUDIES AND PROOF OF PERFORMANCE



### TEXAS JAIL BREAKS SCALE WITH AQUA-REX

Dealing with scale from hard water in Detention Centers is much more of a problem than elsewhere because you can't use the normal acid cleaners that are required to

remove scale. Acids in the wrong hands can cause harm and injuries. The Federal Detention Center in downtown Houston, Texas had long ago by-passed their softeners but were looking for an efficient solution to deal with hard water in their laundry.

An Aqua-Rex WK3 solved that problem when installed on the Detention Center's twin PVI water heaters. And to their surprise and delight, Aqua-Rex did a lot more, as well. They found in the cell blocks that the shower operating handles and stainless-steel protectors could be wiped clean of scale using a soft cloth – there was no need for an acid de-scaler which had been the only alternative. The shower cubicles were heavily used but now they look shiny clean rather than having a dull, dirty look caused by the scale before.

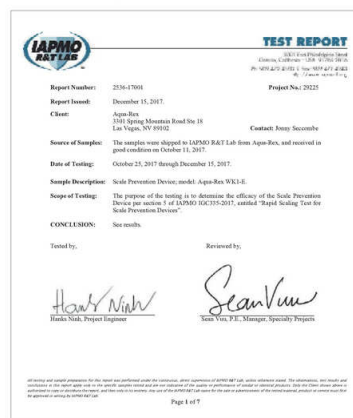
### INDEPENDENT RESEARCH/ TESTING LAB VERIFIES AQUA-REX EFFECTIVENESS

Aqua-Rex is the only physical water conditioner to be independently tested and receive performance verification by IAPMO R & T Labs using the IAPMO protocol IGC 335-2018 Rapid Scaling Test.

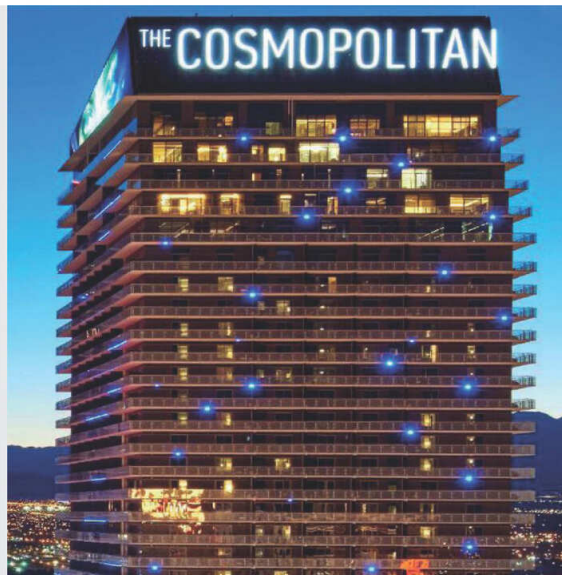
**Third-Party Performance Verification by: IAPMO R&T LAB**



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### COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL CHOOSES AQUA-REX OVER WATER SOFTENERS

The Cosmopolitan Hotel was constructed without any water softeners except in the kitchens for the dishwashers. After some earlier trials, Aqua-Rex units were installed on the plate and frame heat exchangers supplying hot water to both towers and the low rise. Subsequently, additional units were installed on the recirculation loops in the towers. Shortly afterwards, it was found that scale could be brushed away from the work tops around the faucets leaving them completely scale free. The total installed cost of all the units was less than \$100,000. No issues caused by scaling have occurred in the property on the areas treated by Aqua-Rex since they were installed. This contrasts with similar properties using water softeners nearby where scale issues have been a constant problem.

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