



CHRIS JENKINS

Written by H. K. Wilson

own construction firm 25 years ago and decided to put his name on it, he pledged that every job would be done right. These many years later, Jenkins Construction is a name synonymous with quality work and client satisfaction.

In the coastal market where real estate is at a premium and existing properties are aging, there has been a recent push to rehab older homes or demolish them completely and rebuild from the ground up. As a result, contractors like Chris are in high demand, as both costs and completion timelines are increasing. Utilizing both full-time employees and subcontractors, Chris can remodel a home or tear it down and rebuild with maximum efficiency. "Everyone is so busy, and it's taking a lot of extra time to do these builds," Chris says. "I'm one of the quicker contractors because I have my own employees, so I don't always have to rely on subs."

Tightening state building regulations are also adding to the time and money required to rehab or build a home. "Things are changing so fast here in California, especially because of green laws and structural requirements. In the last five years, these changes have added major costs and time to projects. All houses require fire sprinklers now, and energy efficiency regulations require us to install special windows, doors, insulation and lighting, so everything costs more. Then we have structural considerations for earthquakes that dictate the amount of hardware and beam we are required to put in the structure."

Chris Jenkins, owner of Jenkins Construction and Jenkins Termite in Newport Beach, is a SoCal original. Born and raised in the region, Chris began working in construction right out of high school. In the years that followed, he acquired hands-on skill in virtually every aspect of the building trades, including drywall, wood framing, high-rise metal framing, concrete and painting. When he started his

DELIVERING QUALITY WORK AND CLIENT SATISFACTION

Chris says the busy market also means that it takes extra time to get materials. Decisions need to be made well in advance, and he recommends that clients hire a designer to help with the many choices of fixtures and finishes to ensure that he and his crews can meet installation deadlines.

Communication is another skill at which Chris excels. "I learned awhile back that you've got to answer the phone and handle things. When you have a problem and are freaking out, you want to talk to someone about it. Also, when I meet with my clients originally, I sit down with them and get a feel for what kind of person they are, what level they want to build at in terms of finishes, and then give them my proposal. I go over whatever hidden costs can pop up, like things that can happen with the city. Sometimes we can anticipate those things ahead of time and put them in the budget. I don't try to lowball on everything. I try to give a reasonable bid and set realistic expectations from the beginning."

Chris says that hiring a contractor is like getting married. "You need to get along with people," he says. "You can tell when you meet if you vibe or not. It's almost as important as price." Chris works only by referral, and his clients give him rave reviews.

Joseph McGreevy is a loan officer at Kinecta Federal Credit Union, one of Chris's most trusted industry partners, and also a client. When Joseph and his wife, Jessie, built their own home last year, they chose Chris for the job. Joseph said this about their experience: "Chris built a new home for us in 2018, which was ahead of schedule and under budget. Without reservation, I would both recommend Chris and also use his services again. Our experience in building our ground-up new home with Jenkins Construction was amazing. Jenkins Construction made every time table they laid out and performed the work with the utmost professionalism. We would recommend Jenkins Construction because of the honesty, full transparency, crafts-

manship, professionalism and overall integrity of Chris Jenkins."

Jason Bartusick stated: "Chris and Rikki are very responsive and readily available. He has a sense of urgency that I haven't seen in anyone, and I feel he spends his clients' money as if it were his own. I'm looking at several houses just so I can start another project with him."

Phil Rutten had this to say: "Chris is totally committed to doing the best job possible for his client. As such, Chris takes great pride in his work and treats each job as though it were his own property. Clients' money is handled by Chris as he would his own, and he constantly tries for the best prices and highest quality."

According to Chris, there are three things that set him apart from his competition:

1. Getting the job done on time
2. Getting the job done on budget
3. Being available to clients

"I want to be somebody you can trust and rely on and will give you a reasonable price. But before you hire me or anyone, get some referrals. Make sure that person can deliver what they promise."

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