

New Tricks for Old Dogs

CONTRACTORS CAN INCREASE LABOR GREATLY BY UTILIZING DRYWALL FRAMING SYSTEMS.
By MICHAEL CLARK

Think you can't teach old dogs new tricks? Well, sometimes you can. Think you can't finish an interior frame job 25 percent faster than usual? Sometimes you can do that, too. And, on a really

good project, sometimes you can do both. At least if you are Cheyne Jackson you can.

It's true. Jackson, an estimator and project manager for Jackson Quality Drywall of Minden, Nev., did just that on the recent Northern Nevada HOPES community health center construction project in downtown Reno, Nev. Initially the three-story job was bid using industry standard metal stud framing that included a bottom track, slotted deflection track, and a full-length metal stud that would screw in at the top and bottom. It would have done just fine; however, Jackson had recently worked with an alternative framing system he thought might work even

better for Northern Nevada HOPES. He was spot on.

The system he wanted and ultimately used was ClarkDietrich's TRAKLOC Drywall Framing System, which can telescope or adjust in length according to variances in the slab. This means contractors can order one length member for the entire project and easily adjust its size as needed without having to stop, measure and cut each stud. This translates into very real time savings for crews, which ultimately means more profits for the install team. Plus, contractors face none of the safety hazards that come with cutting steel studs and they don't have to fool with nearly as many screws either.

"This is the second time we've used TRAKLOC, and have had success both times. It's been a major labor savings for us. The less time we spend building something, the more profitable we can be. Plus, it helps the general contractor out with the schedule. We get our work done faster so the trades get to fall in right behind us," Jackson says.

Action Jackson

Everett VanCampen, construction superintendent with The Neenan Co. of Fort Collins, Colo., also has had success using the product. This was the first time he had used the system and is pleased with what he saw. "I think it's a good system. I like the way it works," he says.

VanCampen explained that many of the installers had to undergo a training pro-

