

JCB 3CX Sitemaster is lifechanging for loyal JCB customer

JCB as a medium-sized plant asset has the best resale value and offers a solid return on investment of around 30 percent, which is very good news for users of this world-famous brand.



This was recently said by Jayson Buyskes, Managing Director of Mike Buyskes Construction (Pty) Ltd, a Pretoria-based construction company that recently celebrated its fiftieth year in business. Judging by the number of JCB-branded plant this company owns, it's a brand that has earned its keep within this dynamic construction company.

Mike Buyskes, a carpenter by trade, started his construction business in Pretoria in 1972. He first concentrated on the residential market but when that showed a downturn in the 1980s, he turned to the commercial and retail market and soon made his company known to be one that brought projects in on time and on budget with quality finishes thrown in as standard.

Jayson Buyskes, Mike's son, joined the business in 2009 after completing a BSc Construction Management degree at the University of Pretoria. "We've diversified into constructing industrial warehousing, shopping malls, motor dealerships, and office parks all over South

Africa as well as tourist lodges locally and in Zambia," Jayson says when we meet on the site of yet another head office construction project in Centurion. "We employ around 260 full-time staff with local labour drawn from areas where we're working. These casual labourers are trained in a variety of disciplines, which leaves a legacy of skills when we complete projects."

Mike Buyskes Construction is particularly proud of the work that it's done over the 50 years of its existence, but also of the people involved. Mike himself is still an active director as is his wife, Mearl, and Mathebula Mahlangu, who started as a manual labourer. The other directors are Jayson Buyskes, Leon and Corné Lees, and Gerhard van Vuuren.

"In terms of yellow metal machines used in the construction of various big and small projects, we've only ever bought JCB machines," Jayson continues. "Our first ever JCB Backhoe Loader was a 3CX 4x2 we bought in late 1998 and a second 3CX 4x4 model followed in 2002."

Jayson says their JCB Backhoe Loader fleet has grown to number six and the general rule is that each site is allowed to use one such machine under an internal plant hire process should the project budget allow it.

"We've found what works best for us is to run yellow metal equipment such as a JCB Backhoe Loader to between 8 000 and 9 000 hours. This allows the first three-and-a-half years in which to pay it off and a further five years to meet the target hours for replacement when we send it to an auction house where the machines are snapped up by an eager market looking for well-maintained backhoe loaders," Jayson explains. "We were pleased to learn that Bell Equipment is now the official distributor for JCB equipment and subsequently bought our first two JCB 3CX Sitemaster machines through Sascha Caixeiro, our Bell Equipment Sales Representative, who we've found to be very knowledgeable and helpful."

The two JCB 3CX Sitemaster Backhoe Loaders were delivered in November 2022 and January 2023 respectively and made an immediate impact with the higher specified equipment they boast. Having forks allows for loading and unloading pallets and bulk bags and the 6-in-1 front bucket allows operators to do handy tasks like levelling and shaping embankments. An extension on the backhoe dipper allows for deeper trenches to be dug.

"A machine we've always wanted was a roller and in April 2023 we took delivery of a JCB CT260-120 Tandem Roller, which is so useful for compacting backfilled trenches and layer works behind retaining walls," Jayson adds. "We also use it on surface bed

preparation and final layers when constructing basements, retail centre-line shops, and warehouses where we've seen it comfortably compact between 400 and 500 square metres in a day, which is impressive."

Jayson mentions that to ensure longevity of their JCB equipment, all new machines are bought with a Starter Care Package, a full-service plan that runs for 48 months or 5 500 hours. During this time all servicing and repairs are done by mechanics from Bell Equipment wherever they may be working in the country, and this gives them the peace of mind knowing their yellow metal fleet will deliver sustained uptime.

This solid mechanical care translates into frugal fuel consumption with the JCB Backhoe Loaders returning average fuel burn figures of 4,5 litres an hour during medium to light work and the JCB CT 260-120 Roller, a mere 2,5 litres an hour.

"I'd like to tell you about another JCB machine we had and still sorely miss," Jayson mentions smiling. "It was a 2008 model JCB 540-170 Telehandler that was so versatile with interchangeable tools and its incredibly long reach, but its most important feature was its very low maintenance costs. When we sold it eight years later, we did not lose a cent on it, and we feel that needs to be said."

"We've also been impressed with the levels of service we've received from Bell Equipment with the company's service department responding quickly and always having the correct service kits and consumables on hand. That type of service encourages brand loyalty."



Jayson Buyskes, Managing Director of Mike Buyskes Construction (Pty) Ltd.