



Widow carries torch for filtration system

By Wendy Brown
The New Mexican

When Jim Jenkins of Santa Fe died in 2005, he was the only plumber in the country allowed to sell water filtration systems made by Environmental Water Systems of Las Vegas, Nevada.

But his widow, Audrey Jenkins, is carrying on Jim's belief in the company at Santa Fe by Design, a local company that specializes in bath and kitchen fixtures and water-filtration systems. EWS products are usually sold through showrooms like the one at Santa Fe by Design.

Audrey Jenkins said the systems are exceptional because, unlike water-softening systems, they do not require salt, so there is not environmentally harmful salt or potassium chloride discharge from the system.

The systems are important for Santa Feans to know about because they conserve water and are environmentally friendly, Audrey Jenkins said. They should be of particular interest to people who want a "green" and sustainable home.

Reverse-osmosis systems discharge anywhere between 3 and 11 gallons for every one gallon they produce, Jenkins said, but EWS

filtration system to make his water taste better.

Berardinelli said he wanted a system that did not require salt and the frequent maintenance that salt systems require, but he didn't know if such a system existed.

So, Berardinelli asked Jim Jenkins to find him one, and he did. Jim Jenkins installed an EWS system, and 15 years later, Berardinelli said he is still happy with the system.

Audrey Jenkins said the systems are exceptional because, unlike water-softening systems, there is no environmentally harmful salt or potassium chloride discharge from the system.

systems do not waste any water. Another bonus is that they leave in the good minerals that reverse-osmosis systems take out, she said.

Audrey Jenkins said her late husband brought the systems to Santa Fe after having a conversation with David Berardinelli, who was building a home in Eldorado and wanted an environmentally-friendly water

Audrey Jenkins said her late husband started selling the systems to other people in Santa Fe, and sold them until his death. About 18 months ago, she started selling them at Santa Fe by Design, she said.

Mark Truncala, vice president of sales and marketing for EWS, said Jim Jenkins was such an exceptional torchbearer for EWS that he was the only plumber in the country allowed to sell the product.

System: Filters need to be replaced every 7-10 years



Audrey Jenkins, EWS Program Manager, sells environmentally friendly water-filtration systems. Audrey is pictured in the Santa Fe by Design showroom.

“Now, Audrey has taken up Jim’s torch and moved on,” Truncale said.

List prices for the systems range between \$3,265 and \$5,865, Jenkins said, but the systems filter all the water in your home – including the water you bathe with – and spare you the cost of buying bottled water.

Every 7 to 10 years, the filters need replacing, and the list price for the change out ranges between \$750 and \$1,390, Jenkins said.

But compared to water-softening systems, which can

cost between \$1,500 and \$4,987, and reverse-osmosis systems, which can cost between \$393 and \$800 and only filter drinking water, EWS systems are very reasonable, Jenkins said.

That is particularly the case when you consider that you

can’t drink the water from water-softening systems because of the salt or potassium chloride, so it is necessary to install a reverse-osmosis system for drinking water anyway, Jenkins said.

Jenkins said she sells all kinds of systems, including water-softening and reverse-osmosis systems, because they are necessary in some cases, but most people in Santa Fe are better off with an EWS system.

Audrey Jenkins said another benefit is that the systems remove chlorine, which not only can smell and

taste bad, but has been shown to cause cancer in some studies.

But Audrey Jenkins said she does not like to stress that point, because it can come across as a scare-tactic. And, there are so many other reasons to buy one of the systems that it’s not necessary, she said.

“It’s something I believe in and something I love,” Audrey Jenkins said. “My goal is to inform the public that there are different ways to filter water.”



Jenkins said her late husband brought the systems to Santa Fe after a conversation with David Berardinelli, who was building a home and wanted an environmentally friendly system to make his water taste better.