

I'm with ERIE

Ostrich Farmer and Concrete Artist

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Mark Niemeyer

Customer with Glenn Lewis Insurance
in Zebulon, N.C.

Hometown: Raleigh, N.C.

Occupation: Owner, DecorCrete, a decorative concrete company.

A background with ostriches: For 10 years before starting DecorCrete, Mark farmed ostriches. As the breeder market turned in a different direction, he began to dabble in concrete art.

"My brother suggested we try stamped concrete on the porches of a large farm and home we'd purchased," Mark tells. "A buddy of mine, Barry Griffith, was part of [Sexton Griffith Builders](#) who does stamped concrete down in South Carolina, so I gave him a call. The next thing I know I'm down there learning how to do this with him and his crew. Then I came home and did it to my own front porch."



Mark Niemeyer, DecorCrete

Word of mouth speaks volumes: Friends took notice of Mark's work, and he started doing occasional jobs for family and friends.

"Then I realized that people were going to pay me to do it," Mark said. With interest in his decorative concrete picking up, Mark decided to focus on this new line of work.

A decade later, his work still speaks for itself. "I created a [Web site](#) in February, and that's the closest we've ever come to advertising."

What is decorative concrete, exactly? The most popular decorative concrete is stamped concrete, which impresses patterns into concrete before it's fully dried. It gives driveways and walkways the appearance of brick, cobblestone or even wood. Mark's work ranges from renovating old concrete to make it look new again to stamping, acid-staining, scoring and epoxy work. He works mostly with residential homeowners.



Family man: When he's not working, Mark loves spending time with his wife Teresa and his four daughters: Jordan, 17; Taylor, 14; and 4-year-old twins Danie and Andie.

Why ERIE?: "Glenn Lewis has been my insurance agent since day one, and the service he has provided me is what I look for," Mark says. "So when he told me that he felt ERIE was the right place for him as an agent and for me as a customer, that's all it took. Afterwards, I found out that my parents are also ERIE Customers, and through the years they've been very happy and satisfied with the service they've been provided as well."