

Company provides deep clean



Will Lamb, owner of AmRestore, shows off what kind of equipment the company's Esporta machine can clean. The company specializes in restoring items damaged by fire and water and also cleaning sports equipment to prevent Staph infection outbreaks.

From electronics to teddy bears, Glen Burnie business restores damaged goods

By MARC SHAPIRO Staff Writer

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Will Lamb gets great pleasure out of what he does.

His company, AmRestore, uses a unique cleaning process to help prevent and stop outbreaks of Staph and other infections that can spread through items such as sports equipment, and it also specializes in restoration of personal property.

"Personal property has a more sentimental quality (than a building)," the 33-year-old company owner said. "There's nothing better than saving a kid's teddy bear."

AmRestore, which opened for business on Cromwell Park Drive in Glen Burnie in January, employs 10 full-time and five part-time workers. Mr. Lamb said he needs to

double both of those numbers because the business is exceeding his expectations.

Last month, his staff cleaned thousands of personal property items, hundreds of pieces of sports equipment, about 30 bulletproof vests and hundreds of electronics.

The company charges \$15 dollars to clean helmets, \$5 for baseball batting gloves and \$20 for soccer cleats. It also offers packages for complete equipment sets and gives team discounts.

A stuffed animal or a piece of sports equipment would be sent through the company's Esporta machine, which starts the three-step Staph infection prevention.

The machine hydraulically forces contaminants out and forces disinfectants deep into the material. Stuffed animals and sports equipment are sent through this machine, which kills 99.997 percent of bacteria, a study by the Certified Contents Restoration Network found.

It has a microprocessor with programmed wash cycles for things like football shoulder pads, shoes, stuffed animals, bulletproof vests and firefighter gear.

The next step in the Staph infection prevention is hand-cleaning everything with a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. For areas that had Staph breakouts, like locker rooms or classrooms, a machine that implements three gas phases over an eight-hour period is used in the area, which is sealed off.

"That's the icing on the cake," Mr. Lamb said. The machine destroys any remaining bacteria.

"If there's something growing in a dark place, we need gas to penetrate that," he said.

Mr. Lamb said that a lot of companies do the first two steps, or some do just the first, but most companies do not bother with Step 3. The company also has a few third parties do sample testing before and after AmRestore does its work to ensure that they have

eradicated whatever was in the area or piece of equipment.

"We do our own testing as we go, but we want that third-party clearance," he said. A lot of business from north county has come from flood damage, he said.

On Tuesday morning, a room at the company's Glen Burnie headquarters was filled with financial documents they were drying for the Annapolis Acura dealership that caught fire last month. They also were cleaning hand-woven rugs that were damaged from a fire.

For the rugs, they employed a process called HEPA-vaccing, using High Efficiency Particulate Air, which vacuums the smoke residue off the rugs. The rugs were then hand-cleaned with fabric-safe foam and HEPA-vacced again.

"I call it the HEPA sandwich," Mr. Lamb said.

The company also cleans bulletproof vests for the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Department.

"I sent them some bulletproof vests that are still usable but kind of had that odor to them," Deputy Don Micheletti said. "When we got them back they smelled very pretty, much better than when we sent them there."

The sheriff's department would have thrown away the \$400 vests if they weren't cleaned, he said.

The department recently sent some old batons, handcuffs and leg irons to be cleaned. Deputy Micheletti said getting those things cleaned can prevent outbreaks of illness in cells in addition to saving the department money.

The company also can restore electronics that are damaged in fires and floods. They use deionized water, which has no charge, no contaminants and no other chemicals in it, with electronic-safe soap to clean electronics. They can clean computers, big-screen

televisions, cappuccino machines and satellite radio receivers.

For personal property restoration of items made of silver, stainless steel and things like rusty tools, AmRestore uses an ultrasonic machine, which creates scrubbing bubbles through sound waves.

O'Dell Brooks, the maintenance engineer at Chrysalis House in Crownsville, which provides substance abuse treatment for women and children, is grateful for AmRestore. The company saved about 80 percent to 90 percent of items damaged in a flood that caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage.

he company restored computers, furniture and cleaned the food pantry.

"Out of all the contracts that I had, they made my job easier," he said.

mshapiro@mdgazette.com