

Water damage is their specialty

No job is too messy for Irondequoit-based Renewit Cleaning & Restoration

ALAN MORRELL

The TV show *Dirty Jobs* has nothing on the guys from Renewit Cleaning & Restoration.

Stepbrothers Pete Alessi and Tony Rebis run the Irondequoit-based company and specialize in the aftermath work associated with water damage. They could give the host of the Discovery Channel show a run for his money.

The work involves mitigation – that’s the drying out period – and rebuilding. Alessi and Rebis also help customers with the insurance aspects. And make no mistake, the jobs are messy.

“Water takes no prisoners,” Rebis said. “Sewage is dangerous. I don’t know if you ever get used to dealing with (it), but you just do it.”

As the duo says, accidents happen all the time. They’ve dealt with flooded basements, backed-up sewers and toilets and dishwashers, damage caused by fire, you name it.

“When we walk in someone’s home, 95 percent of the time, it’s devastated,” Alessi said. “The people have no idea of what to do or where to turn. We handle everything and we’re not done until it’s dry or rebuilt.”

The company is certified for mold or fire cleanup, Alessi said, adding that about 90 percent of the work deals with water damage.

A graduate of Irondequoit High School, Alessi tried a few different jobs before co-founding Renewit. He moved to Maui at age 19 and worked on home construction for a couple of years before returning to the Rochester area to work in heating and air conditioning.

That’s when he started working with Jake Adolph. They decided to go into business for themselves and founded Renewit in 2007. Business was good, albeit for tragic reasons.

Adolph had been “storm-chasing” around the time Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. He and Alessi hit the road for Texas after Hurricane Ike slammed Galveston in September, 2008. Obviously, a lot of people needed a lot of help.

And then tragedy struck again, this time for Renewit, and this time in an extremely personal way.



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Stepbrothers Tony Rebis and Pete Alessi, both of Renewit Cleaning & Restoration, measure after taking humidity readings for materials they will need to replace floor, walls and ceiling in the basement of a Pittsford home that sustained water damage due to a laundry overflow.



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Renewit Cleaning & Restoration

Founded: 2007

Location: Based out of 124 Glenmont Dr., Irondequoit

Executives: Pete Alessi and Tony Rebis, business partners

Employees: 3 full-time; and up to 40 depending on the job

Website:

www.renewitwaterdamage.com