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GearClean purchased by Northern Virginia company

Star staff report

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GearClean, a property restoration business at 1180 S. Loudoun St. in Winchester, has been acquired by Merit Restorations, a Purcellville-based company that provides similar remediation services.

Details of the transaction have not been made public, but a media release issued this week by Merit indicates that no staffing changes are planned at GearClean.

"Choosing Merit Restorations was an easy decision because we saw a company that shares our values and genuinely cares about its people," GearClean's former owner, Richie Pifer of the Pifer Cos. of Winchester, said this week in the release. "This partnership allows us to preserve everything our customers know and trust while creating new opportunities for our team and the families and businesses that rely on us."

GearClean was founded in 2006 by Art and Maggie Major. The Majors sold the business to the Pifer Cos. in August 2021, and GearClean moved a short time later from 150 W. Commercial St. to its current South Loudoun Street location.

GearClean serves residential and commercial customers throughout the Northern Shenandoah Valley, western Loudoun County and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. According to the media release, the company specializes in water mitigation, fire restoration, mold remediation, contents restoration, document recovery, reconstruction, specialty cleaning and emergency response services. Its technicians have earned Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) and utilize advanced restoration technologies to help customers recover from property damage.

Merit Restorations was founded in 2014 as a full-service restoration and reconstruction company specializing in residential and commercial property damages caused by fire, water, mold, storms and other disasters, the release states. The company provides 24/7 emergency response,

mitigation, reconstruction and restoration services from locations in Virginia and Texas, and is now in the process of expanding through partnerships with high-quality restoration companies that share its commitment to customer service and technical excellence.

"We're building more than a restoration company; we are building a team that cares deeply about people, the communities we serve and each other," Sam Chapman, CEO of Merit Restorations, said in the media release. "GearClean has built that same kind of culture over the last two decades, which made this partnership feel like a natural fit from the very beginning. Together, we'll continue serving our customers, supporting one another and making a meaningful difference across the region."

GearClean customers will benefit from Merit's expanded technologies, resources, and capabilities, the release states, and the Winchester company's existing projects and emergency response services will continue without interruption.

For more information about the two companies, visit [meritrestorations.com](https://www.meritrestorations.com) and [gearclean.com](https://www.gearclean.com).

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