

## Cremation questions and answers:

When making funeral arrangements, people have to make the decision regarding the method of disposition. Earth burial, mausoleum entombment or cremation may be chosen. We will answer many of the common questions regarding cremation and this will help to simplify your decision making process. For more information please contact us directly.

*What is cremation?*

Cremation is a process of reducing the body to bone fragments by applying intense heat for a period of two to three hours. The cremated remains, which are commonly referred to as “ashes” are removed from the cremation chamber. They are then processed into finer fragments and placed in a temporary container. The ashes weight typically between three and six pounds. An urn may be selected for the final disposition of the cremated remains.

*Where and when does cremation take place?*

Cremations occur at a crematorium in a special furnace called a cremation chamber or retort. Ontario regulations allow only one cremation at a time.

*Do we need to buy a casket?*

Ontario’s law requires that at a minimum, the deceased must be placed into a rigid combustible container. Many options of caskets and containers are available to you

*Can we place a person’s mementos in the casket prior to cremation?*

Many personal items may be placed in the casket; however, some items may need to be removed prior to the cremation process. All items left in the casket will be destroyed during the cremation. Your funeral director can advise you on what items may stay and what items must be removed from the casket.



*Do we need to have a funeral if we select cremation?*

Cremation does not limit the type of funeral service that may be chosen. The same options that apply to earth burial are available with cremation. Some of these choices include: casket type, location of the service and visitation, music selection, open casket and the display of personal mementos. Some families select to have a complete service at the funeral home or place of worship. Others prefer to have a procession to the crematorium similar to earth burial.

*Is embalming required?*

Embalming is not mandatory; however, some circumstances may require it. If you prefer an open casket with a visitation prior to the service, embalming is highly recommended.

*What is an urn?*

An urn is a container designed to hold the cremated remains permanently. It may be constructed from a variety of materials such as wood, bronze, copper, steel, pewter, granite, marble, clay pottery or fine porcelain. We have a large selection of urns available designed to reflect the lifestyle of an individual. Urns may also be personalized by engraving. Urns also come in a variety of sizes that allow more than one member of the family to have a portion of the cremated remains

*Is cremation less expensive than a burial?*

Typically cremation is less expensive than burial, there are other factors affecting the cost of cremation. Depending on which cemetery is selected, the cremation cost may be less expensive than the purchase of a cemetery plot. There are coroner fees to authorize the cremation, an urn to purchase and possible transportation costs of delivering the urn to its final destination.

*Cremation is only an option to earth burial or entombment. We provide a wide range of services and merchandise to fit every situation and budget.*

Before making an important decision about cremation, it is important to have as much information as possible. We encourage you to contact us anytime for further information.



*What can we do with the cremated remains?*

**Burial:** The Cremated remains may be buried in an existing cemetery plot or a new plot may be purchased.

**Inurnment:** The urn may be placed in a niche in an above ground structure called a columbarium.

**Scattering:** Cremated remains may be scattered on private or public property if authorization is obtained. Properties may be bought and sold so it is important to know that once the scattering takes place, the cremated remains are irretrievable. Scattering on either public or private property may offend some people and there may be laws prohibiting such action.

**Shipping:** You may wish for the cremated remains to be shipped to another country. We can look after these arrangements for you. You may also be permitted to take the cremated remains yourself to another country. Check with us first and we can assist you to obtain any additional documentation that may be required.

Many people prefer to have the urn at home with them.