




Different Cremation Options



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- Cremation is one of the two main choices when it comes to dealing with remains after someone has passed away. Sometimes, the instruction to cremate is left in the deceased's will, while other times it is left to the family to decide.
 - However it ends up happening, it isn't just a matter of choosing cremation over burial. There are several options to consider within that cremation choice that make each situation unique. There really are no 'better options' and the options you choose are really just a matter of personal preference.

The Process

- Cremation is a process that goes back thousands of years and is used in many different cultures. In modern society, cremation is a process that is completely controlled from start to finish.
- Every cemetery that offers cremation has a facility that is designated for that specific purpose. The dignity and wishes of the deceased and the family are respected above all else as the procedure is carried out.
- Basically, the deceased is placed inside a traditional casket or a rigid container, and that container is set inside a cremation chamber. Heat is applied until both the body and the casket are turned to ash. After the process is completed, the ashes are placed in a permanent urn or temporary container, and returned to the family.
- A typical cremation lasts for about three hours, and some places will allow family members to attend the cremation if they so desire.

The Urn

One of the options that must be considered when it comes to cremation is the type of urn the ashes will be placed in. Urns are available in a pretty wide range of sizes, shapes and materials. If the deceased has made the decision ahead of time, the choice is easy, but if not it might take some thought.

Urns are generally available in wood, metal, ceramic or stone. Cylindrical shapes are probably the most common, but they're also available in a standard box shape. The colors range from natural metal, stone or wood to urns with different accents and colors to suit different tastes and personalities.

The Ceremony

- The ceremony that takes place after a cremation is no different than the ceremony that accompanies a full ground burial. It may take place somewhere other than graveside, depending on the final resting place, but the ceremony itself is still designed to honor the deceased and provide closure to family members and friends.
- Whether or not the ceremony is religious is the decision of the deceased or the family.

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Final Resting Place

Final Resting Place


- With a cremation, there are more options when it comes to a final resting place than with a full ground burial. The ashes are in the urn, but that urn can end up in any number of places.
- In some cases, family members keep the urn as a way to feel connected to the deceased, or on the wishes of the deceased. It may be displayed on a mantel or fireplace or some other prominent place in a family member's home.

- If family isn't keeping the ashes, a few options are usually available. The urn may be placed in a glass niche indoors, it may be placed inside a stone-faced outdoor niche, or it may be buried. Sometimes, a large upright monument is purchased for an entire family and that is where the ashes are placed as each member passes away.
- The final resting place is a matter of preference and what feels right to the family. Again, if it's all worked out ahead of time then the decision is easy, but if not taking the deceased person's personality and likes into consideration may help.



Important Documents

- In order for a cremation to take place, several different documents must be filled out and presented. This is usually provided by the executor of the will or the family members of the deceased. These documents may vary depending on where you live, but typically include:
 - Death Certificate – this is the official certificate that is requested by the executor or family members after a death has been legally registered. This certificate is required to settle an estate.
 - Statement of Death – this is an official form that lists important information like birthplace, family information, place of death and social insurance number.

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- Medical Certificate of Death – this is the certificate from the coroner or attending physician that is given to the funeral director.
 - Burial Permit – this permit is required before a cremation can be carried out.
 - Cremation Certificate & Forms – an application form authorizes the cemetery to cremate the body and a certificate acts as validation of the deceased's cremation.