



*Cremation is...*

Questions and answers about cremation and how to make it a part of your funeral plans.

Most crematories in America require some kind of closed, rigid container for the cremation process. Choices range from cardboard or particleboard containers to hardwood caskets (some areas allow metal cremation



caskets) which are suitable for visitations and memorial services before the cremation.

Urns also vary in price and design. Several are displayed in this brochure. Made from a variety of materials including metal, hardwood and ceramic, families can choose a receptacle based on the personality or hobbies of the deceased or even the decor of the room in which it will be placed.

Sculptured urns, such as the model shown on the cover of this brochure, are among the very latest in cremation tribute merchandise. There are also companies which incorporate cremated remains into crystal sculptures and jewelry.

Your funeral director can assist you in making arrangements that suit your preferences and financial situation. Be sure to express your wishes, no matter what they may be.



Cremation options are limited only by one's imagination, and your funeral director will be happy to accommodate your wishes as best as possible.

## What is Cremation?

Cremation is an option more families are choosing as a part of their funeral plans. It's no wonder, with all of the options available in cremation memorialization today.



Unlike the powdery "ashes" depicted in movies and television, the end result of the cremation process (two to three hours of intense heat applied in a cremation "retort") is approximately three to seven pounds of small bone fragments. These cremated remains are placed in a temporary container until the family decides upon final disposition.

## The Cremation Option

The reasons people give for choosing cremation vary from economic to ecologic. There are those who believe cremation is a less expensive funeral care alternative, yet others spend more on a funeral which includes cremation than on traditional burial.

Some believe it's the "right thing to do" for Mother Earth; committing their loved one's cremated remains to the wind, land, sea, or even outer space.

Still others choose cremation when families are separated by distance,

dividing the cremated remains which are kept in “keepsake” urns, such as sculptured artwork, or specially designed fine jewelry.



Whatever your reasons for choosing cremation, it is wise to explore the many options available. Don't hesitate to direct any questions or concerns to your funeral director who can provide guidance founded upon years of working with families who have chosen cremation as a means of final disposition.

## Funeral Services with Cremation

As the cremation rate has risen over the years, funeral care professionals have seen a tremendous growth in unique, individual tributes before or after the cremation process.

Prior to the cremation, one may choose to have visitation and a funeral service with the casketed body present. Memorial tributes can also take place after cremation, either at the funeral home, the home of the family, or a house of worship.



One may or may not choose to have the cremated remains displayed in an urn on the premises during memorial tribute services.

Regardless of when a service or memorial tribute is held, having some kind of ceremony provides friends and family with the opportunity to say a final “good-bye.” This time also gives

the bereaved an opportunity to share their memories and give support to one another.

## Final Disposition

Placing the cremated remains in a permanent memorial is just as important to some families as the memorial service itself. For many, a grave or mausoleum niche is a place to visit and remember the life of their loved one. Others find an appropriate place in their home to keep the cremated remains.



These options provide a family the opportunity to visit and reflect in a fixed, identifiable location; important

to those wishing to keep close watch over their loved one.

One may choose to “scatter” cremated remains in a place of great significance. The sea, a meadow, or a favorite park are popular choices for individuals (There is even a company that will launch small capsules containing cremated remains into Earth's orbit!). Check with your funeral director to see if local laws provide for scattering of the cremated remains on public or private property.

## Costs

Ranging from several hundred to several thousand dollars, funeral services increase in price the more elaborate they are. Funeral costs, including those of the cremation process itself, vary by region and availability of merchandise.