

Consumer's Guide to Cremation and Cemeteries



**607 N McCarty Ave
Eagle Lake, TX 77434**

**(979) 234-2011
eaglelakefuneral.com**

Why Is Having a Place to Visit a Loved One So Important?

After a loved one passes away, it's typical to keep their cremated remains at home for a few days to privately reflect and remember them.

Eventually, it's crucial to provide your loved one with a final resting place, such as a grave, a niche in a columbarium, or a spot in an urn garden.

You need a place where family and friends can visit your loved one easily. Having a designated location facilitates respectful visits for everyone. Keeping the remains at home means visitors must come to you, which may not always be feasible or convenient.

Having a permanent resting place for your loved one is crucial for future generations. It enables descendants to remember and honor their legacy. Additionally, burial records play a significant role for future generations interested in researching their family history.

Above all, having a physical place to visit your deceased family member is essential. Those who scatter ashes without providing a permanent resting place often regret not having a location to gather, commemorate, and mourn.



What is a Columbarium?

Columbariums are popular in both the United States and Europe. These structures, resembling walls made of materials like granite, are designed to hold cremation urns. They consist of individual niches, akin to dovecotes, with each niche capable of holding several urns (usually around 4). This feature makes columbariums appealing to families, similar to how cemetery plots can be reserved for family groups.

Columbariums are commonly located in cemeteries or churches, and can be either indoor or outdoor structures. The niches within columbariums may be open or glass-fronted, providing a way for family members and loved ones to view the urns of the deceased.

Some columbariums have closed doors or plaques covering the openings. In these cases, a family name or identifier is often placed or engraved on the exterior of the structure.



Columbariums have become more popular recently for memorializing cremated remains permanently. They offer a physical place where family and friends can visit and pay

homage to their loved one in a serene environment, going beyond keeping the urn at home.

Columbariums may involve either rental fees or purchase prices, similar to buying a burial plot. Costs vary based on factors such as location. For details on incorporating a columbarium into your end-of-life plans, reach out to a local funeral provider.

Can You Bury Cremated Ashes?

After cremation, you might choose to keep the ashes, or cremains, in an urn displayed in your home for a period, offering comfort and closeness during the grieving process.

Eventually, most families desire a permanent resting place for their loved one, providing a private space for paying respects. One straightforward option is burying the cremains.

You can inquire with your funeral director about securing a spot in the urn garden, a common feature in many cemeteries. Urn gardens are landscaped burial spaces specifically designed for burying urns.



Instead of using an urn garden, another option is burying cremains in a standard cemetery plot. A benefit of this option is that, due to the smaller size of urns compared to caskets, many cemeteries permit multiple family members to be buried in the same space, creating a unified family burial area efficiently.

Aside from burial, another common option for permanent placement of cremains is interring them in a columbarium. This above-ground structure houses cremation urns for memorialization. Columbariums contain small spaces called niches, each accommodating one or two urns. Alternatively, you can purchase a cluster of niches for multiple family members to be memorialized together.

Your funeral director can provide you with information about various options for providing your loved one's ashes with a permanent resting place.

Can Cremated Ashes Be Buried with a Casket?

People have diverse preferences for their funeral arrangements. For example, while a husband may prefer a traditional burial in a casket, his wife may opt for cremation. Such scenarios can raise complex questions, such as whether it's possible and permissible for the wife's ashes to be buried alongside her husband's casket.



Cremation burial is becoming more common, with various options available. Some cemeteries offer urn gardens for this purpose, while burying urns in traditional cemetery spaces is also popular. Due to the smaller size of urns compared to caskets, multiple urns can often be interred in the same cemetery space.

Burying an urn with a casket depends on various factors, such as the size of the burial space and casket, local ordinances, and cemetery policies, which vary between states and even among different cemeteries.

To determine if burying an urn with a casket is feasible, discuss your preferences with cemetery staff or your funeral director. It's especially vital to address this during funeral pre-planning. Inform your funeral director if one spouse prefers cremation while the other does not, but both want to be buried nearby. They can offer practical solutions to fulfill these wishes. For further details, reach out to a local funeral home.



What are Ways to Memorialize Cremated Ashes?

After losing a loved one, cremation provides ashes, or cremains, which can be memorialized in various ways.

For some families, the simplest and most appealing option is to receive their loved one's cremains in an urn, which can be prominently displayed at home. This urn may serve as the centerpiece for a memorial space, adorned with photos and memorabilia.

Another option is to scatter some of the ashes in a location that held significance for your deceased loved one, such as the ocean, a forest, or a meaningful spot near your home (ensure compliance with local regulations). Alternatively, you can use the cremains to create a reef, especially fitting if your loved one cherished the environment, particularly the sea.

You can also choose to have your loved one's cremains interred or stored in a cemetery, providing a sacred space for visitation.

Cremains can be transformed into keepsakes, ranging from jewelry to unique items like ammunition. With an increasing array of cremation keepsakes available, it's worthwhile to inquire with your funeral director about any specific memorialization preferences you may have.

Cremation offers families the advantage of honoring their loved one in various meaningful ways, with numerous options to choose from. Contact your preferred funeral home to explore these options further.