



Choosing a Cemetery Plot Checklist

☐ ***Does the cemetery have a good reputation in the community?***

As with any purchase, you'll want to make sure you're dealing with good people in a reputable business. Look up reviews online. Talk to friends or neighbors. Check the Better Business Bureau. And of course, visit the cemetery yourself and talk to the staff face-to-face.

☐ ***What types of plots does the cemetery offer?***

There are many different types of plots available for purchase. So, make sure you do a little research into which type of plot you want and then discuss the cemetery's options. The last thing you want is to purchase a single plot when you actually need a double plot for you and your spouse.

☐ ***Does the cemetery have any specific rules or regulations?***

Before you commit to a cemetery, ask them if they have any specific rules or regulations. For example, some cemeteries don't allow decorations or require a specific type of grave marker. Every cemetery is different, so to avoid surprises, make sure to ask.

☐ ***Do the cemetery grounds appeal to you aesthetically?***

While the way a cemetery looks isn't the most important, it's nice to know that your (or a loved one's) final resting place is in a pleasant place. So, consider the look and maintenance of the cemetery. If you just don't like it, consider looking elsewhere for your cemetery needs.

☐ ***Do family and friends have easy access to the cemetery?***

Another thing to consider is whether those left behind to grieve will have easy access to the gravesite. For many people, visiting the grave is a valuable part of the healing process, but to do this, the gravesite must be easily accessible. So, make sure the cemetery is easy to find and open to visitors.

☐ ***Do you have any preferences for the location of your plot?***

The cemetery will have plots available in different locations, and they may vary in price. For example, if you want a plot near a water feature, a pond, or a bench, it may cost a little more. Make your preferences known to the cemetery staff, and they will outline all of your available options.

☐ ***Are there any additional costs to consider?***

You will, of course, pay for the plot itself, but ask if there are any other fees to consider. For example, there may be costs associated with opening/closing of the grave, perpetual care of the gravesite, or headstone installation. By asking upfront for a list of total costs, you can plan and budget correctly.

☐ ***What types of personalization does the cemetery allow?***

Some families love the clean, polished look that comes with uniformity. For other families, there may be a greater desire to create something unique, such as a custom gravestone. It all boils down to preference. So, as you decide which plot to buy, consider whether personalization at the cemetery matters to you or not.

☐ ***What are the cemetery's responsibilities regarding the gravesite?***

To ensure you know exactly what you're getting, ask the cemetery what their responsibilities are toward the gravesite. How often do they maintain the lawns? Will they let you know if the grave marker starts to crack? Are there maintenance fees? It's always good to know what's included in any service you purchase.

☐ ***Does the cost estimate fit into your budget?***

The cost of a burial plot varies a lot, depending on where you live and what type of plot you want. To help you understand your financial commitment correctly, ask for plot pricing and a full cost estimate. By asking for an estimate, you can determine if everything fits into your budget or if you need to adjust your plans.

☐ ***If I want to be cremated, why would I choose a cemetery?***

Oftentimes, surviving family members may keep a loved one's cremated remains at home for a time, but eventually, there needs to be a more permanent plan. By choosing a final resting place at a cemetery, you give people a way to visit the person who has died and help future generations connect with their roots. But most importantly, you ensure that nothing unfortunate happens to your loved one's remains after you are gone.

☐ ***What are my cemetery options if I choose cremation?***

Cemeteries are fully prepared to assist families who choose both burial and cremation. With cremated remains, you might choose urn burial or placement in a columbarium or glass-front niche. The cemetery may also have mausoleum niches or land set aside for a scattering garden. Speak to your chosen cemetery to review their options for cremated remains and select the option that best fits your family's needs.