



Blair & Son

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Questions about burial and burial services?

How is having a permanent memorial important?

As human beings we all have a natural desire to be remembered. And for those of us who lose loved ones, there is a need to remember, to have a permanent resting place for those we have lost.

Is there a specific time frame for when burial needs to take place?

The short answer is no. The interval between death and burial may be affected by several factors. The burial site will need to be prepared, there may be religious aspects to consider, permits and authorizations will need to be obtained and of course time will be needed to ensure all family and close friends are informed first and foremost. We ensure as much flexibility as is possible to accommodate everyone's schedules.

Is there any concern about the cemetery and its future existence?

We don't believe there is a need to be concerned over the cemetery and its endurance. Cemeteries the world over have endured for centuries.

Before my loved one is buried, is embalming necessary?

If an open casket visitation is planned, or if there will be an extended interval of time between death and burial, these considerations will play a role in your decision whether or not to embalm. However, to be buried – no – embalming does not have to take place. If transportation via air or rail will be a requirement, public health laws likely will dictate embalming occur.

Burial vaults and grave liners – what are they?

Both of these items serve as protection for a casket. They are both containers in which a casket is placed. A grave liner prevents the grave surface from sinking in. A burial vault protects the casket. Vaults can be made from a list of strong materials such as galvanized steel, stainless steel, concrete, copper, bronze, fibreglass or plastic.

Is purchasing a burial vault a requirement?

The answer to this question varies. Many cemeteries our families are memorialized at, do not require a vault, making it a family decision. That being said, some cemeteries do require the purchase of a burial vault. In a case where families are not certain, our trained staff can answer that question in advance of the service or burial date.

Aside from ground burial what are other options?

Entombment in a mausoleum, or interment in lawn crypts can be options offered at some cemeteries. For those who have chosen cremation, most cemeteries provide options for placement of cremated remains.

Opening and closing – what is it and why can it be costly?

Opening and closing usually encompasses up to 50 different service actions provided by the cemetery. These may include: opening and closing the grave (location of the grave, providing boundaries, excavating and filling interment space).

Administration and record keeping (maintaining legal documents, identifying ownership, accessing permissions and finishing required paperwork, entering interment specifics in the interment register). The installation and removal of a lowering device, artificial grass dressing both installation and removal, as well as coco-matting at the site of the grave. Other tasks include leveling, re-grading and sodding (this might also occur if the earth settles), tamping. In all cases a significant portion of the opening and closing costs also are transferred to the cemetery care and maintenance fund, which is there to provide care and maintenance for many years. In other words, there is no required payments at a future date for care and maintenance.

Is it possible to dig the grave for our loved one ourselves? This way we can avoid opening and closing costs.

No. As discussed above, the fees include much more than the physical opening and closing of the grave. There are also many safety issues to consider – the heavy machinery required to complete the task, and the integrity of the surrounding gravesites.

Types of Cemeteries

Mausoleum

Constructed as a monument, a mausoleum is a free standing building which encloses an interment location or burial chamber for those who have passed away. A mausoleum may also be considered a tomb.

Columbarium

The walls of a columbarium house cremated remains, providing a location where friends and family may come to grieve or visit their loved one.

Monumental cemetery

Headstones or other monuments mark the final burial locations of loved ones in a monumental cemetery. This is the traditional style of cemetery location.

Natural cemeteries

A new type of cemetery, sometimes called 'green' or 'eco-friendly', natural cemeteries are for natural burials. In these cemeteries headstones or other monuments are, for the most part, substituted with a natural rock, tree or perhaps a bush.

Lawn cemetery

Each grave in this cemetery type, is marked with a ground-level memorial plaque. Horizontally positioned at the head of the grave, most come with a standardized design.

Questions about cremation and cremation services?

What is the cremation process?

What cremation is not is a type of funeral or a final disposition of loved ones' remains. Cremation is a process whereby high heat and fire are used to reduce remains to resemble a medium fine powdered consistency.

Does embalming need to take place in order to move forward with cremation?

No.

Are family allowed to be present during the cremation?

Our loved ones are allowed to be there to witness the initiating process. They are welcome to stay just to know the casket has arrived and then leave, or are welcome to stay for the entire process.

Is a casket a requirement for cremation?

A formal fully finished casket is not required. There are however options for basic to semi-finished cremation compatible caskets for families wishing to have a private family, or family and friends gathering prior to cremation.

Is an urn a requirement?

No. Your loved ones' remains' will come back in a temporary container provided by the crematorium. We recommend selecting an urn at our funeral home or bringing a special keepsake which would be suitable (see one of our funeral directors for suggested guidelines). Our caring staff will fill the remains into a suitable receptacle.

How do I know I have received the correct remains?

When our experienced staff arrives at the crematorium with your loved one, a titanium disc (featuring a unique code) is affixed to the casket or cremation container. When the cremation has been undertaken, this disc is then intermixed with your loved ones' remains. A certificate is generated by crematorium staff, much like a death certificate, and featuring this unique code. This serves several purposes:

- 1 - For peace of mind. There is no doubt you will be receiving your loved ones' remains.
- 2 - If your family has chosen to bury the remains at a cemetery, the cemetery will require the cremation certificate proving identity.
- 3 - If your family has chosen to scatter the remains - we will advise you that you may come across this disc during the scattering ceremony.

Questions about resomation and resomation services?

What is the actual resomation process?

A combination of water flow, temperature and alkalinity, accelerate the natural process of tissue hydrolysis. The body is dissolved in water, as a result of the process.

Can I still have a memorial service for my loved one?

Yes, you can honour your loved one with a memorial service, celebration or life, or a special ceremony to scatter the ashes as a tribute.

How do I know I have received the correct remains?

Similar to flame based cremation all licenced establishments we partner with, along with our trained staff ensure that identification is followed through the entire process. A titanium disc (featuring a unique code) is placed in with your loved one upon arrival at the facility. This identification is then placed with the remains prior to providing to the family for the burial or scattering of the remains.