

Adam & Greenwood

Funeral Home

Some questions people have about cremation

The information provided here is based on documents published by the Federation of British Cremation Authorities. Our aim is to answer your questions, clear up some common misunderstandings and to give reassurance about all aspects of cremation.

How many deaths, which occur in Great Britain each year, result in cremation?

Approximately 70%.

Are there any religious groups that forbid cremation?

Cremation is acceptable to Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists. It is not acceptable by followers of Judaism and Islam.

Can religious services be held at the Crematorium?

Any kind of religious service can be held at the Crematorium or the service may take place in any separate place of worship followed by a brief committal ceremony at the Crematorium.

Is it necessary for the cremation to be linked with a religious ceremony?

No. The service arrangements are the choice of the family; they can make whatever arrangements they wish.

How is a cremation arranged?

There are a number of legal procedures that must be completed before a cremation can take place and responsibility for these arrangements usually falls to the next of kin. A funeral director will usually make all the arrangements on your behalf and you will only then need to sign the relevant forms. A close relative should normally register the death and information will be provided by the funeral director to explain how to complete this legal duty.

At what stage do relatives need to decide about the disposal of cremated remains?

The funeral director will discuss with the family, or Executor, the different arrangements that can be chosen for the disposal of the cremated remains. When a decision has been made, the next of kin will need to sign a form of authority advising the Crematorium of the wishes of the family. If you need some more time to make the decision, most Crematoria can look after the cremated remains on a temporary basis while you decide.

What are the normal options for disposal of the cremated remains?

Most, if not all Crematoria provides a Garden of Remembrance where cremated remains can be interred. Alternatively, we can provide a suitable container so you can bury the remains in a grave, or scatter them in your chosen location.

What is a Garden of Remembrance and what facilities are provided there?

A garden of Remembrance is a specific area for the interment of cremated remains. It is a peaceful place designed for people to walk in our just sit, think and remember.

What can I do if I wish to bury the cremated remains and have their position marked with a permanent memorial?

The Garden of Remembrance next to the Crematorium is not designed for permanent memorials. It is not a burial ground and cremated remains interred in the Garden are not in casket or container. If you would like a permanent memorial, it will be necessary to have the cremated remains buried in a cemetery or churchyard. As an alternative it is possible to take out a lease, renewable at five yearly intervals, on a memorial rose bush or tree, next to which cremated remains may be interred. Our staff will be pleased to discuss the options with you.

Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin into the cremator?

The reception of the coffin in the committal room and its introduction into the cremator can be witnessed by arrangement with the Crematorium Registrar. It is a good idea to advise the Funeral Director of these wishes as early as possible when making the funeral arrangements.

Should items of jewellery be removed from the body before cremation?

Any jewellery that the family wishes to keep should be removed before the coffin is taken to the Crematorium, as it will not be possible to recover any once the coffin has been received there.

Can more than one body be cremated at the same time?

Generally no, the Code insists that each cremation is carried out separately. However, exceptions can be made in the case of a mother and baby or small twin children, providing that the next of kin has made a specific request. In such cases both bodies are contained within one coffin.

Is the coffin cremated with the body?

Yes. The coffin is always placed in the cremator in exactly the same condition as when it is received at the Crematorium.

What procedures are followed to ensure that cremated remains are kept separate?

A cremator can physically only accept one coffin at a time and all cremated remains must be removed before the unit can be used again. An identity card accompanies the coffin and cremated remains through the process until final dispersal. The Code of Practice and practical necessity make sure that the separation of cremated remains is achieved.

What quantity of cremated remains will there be following a cremation?

The cremation of an adult will usually result in cremated remains weighing between 2 and 4 kg. However in the case of a small infant there may be very little or no remains after cremation.

What happens to the cremated remains interred in the ground?

The cremated remains, due to biochemical reactions in the soil, break down to form part of the earth and so disappear into the natural environment.

Can the cremated remains be retained by the family up until their final dispersal?

The applicant for cremation may collect and retain the cremated remains for as long as they wish or they can be kept safe at the Crematorium for one month from the date of cremation without charge.

How can I make sure I am cremated following my death?

Clear instructions in writing should be given to the person who will be responsible for making the funeral arrangements. Such instructions are, however, not binding in law and it will therefore be necessary to ensure that the person instructed is someone who is likely to carry out your wishes. The final decision will rest with the next of kin.