



UNDERSTANDING
CREMATION—
a complete guide

Courtesy of your local Dignity Memorial® providers



Celebrating each life like no other.



MORE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS ARE CHOOSING CREMATION than ever before.

For many, the biggest benefit of choosing cremation is that it allows for great flexibility in funeral and cemetery arrangements. From location to flowers, music, food and special mementos, the choices and details are up to you.

This guide will walk you through three simple steps to cremation planning. Take note of ideas you like or any questions you may have along the way, and your local Dignity Memorial® professionals can provide you with more information.

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Cemetery property types and options vary by location.

STEP 1

Plan a personalized memorial service.



When choosing cremation, a funeral or memorial service can be very important for two reasons. First of all, your life is unique! Why not celebrate all you are and how much you meant to others? Secondly, a ceremony gives friends and family the time to come together to remember your life—and a chance to say goodbye. Without such a service, people sometimes struggle to find the closure they will need.

Cremation is simply one way of preparing for remembrance and memorialization. A tribute of any kind can be held before or after the cremation has taken place and with or without the casket or urn present. The service itself can be as simple or elaborate as you choose and should reflect your life and your passions.



Cremation Funeral Planning Checklist

- **Choose a location for the service.** Whether it's a funeral home or a favorite park, the setting you choose can represent you or your loved one's personality.
- **Choose an urn or container and decide if it will be displayed at the service.**
- **Decide what elements should be a part of the service.**
 - Will guests share a meal together? Dignity Memorial professionals can help you arrange anything from simple appetizers to a lavish sit-down dinner.*
 - What about decorations and flowers? From vases of daisies to elaborate centerpieces, flowers can be a beautiful reminder of the person being celebrated.
 - Will there be mementos for attendees to take with them? A keepsake like a golf ball with the person's name or a seed packet of your loved one's favorite bloom can truly customize a celebration.

Schedule a complimentary planning session with our experienced counselors today.

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Cemetery property types and options vary by location.

*Catering not offered at all locations.

STEP 2

Purchase cemetery property.



A permanent place of remembrance in a serene, natural setting is a gift for family and friends and serves as a touchstone to those who follow. From simple remembrances to more elaborate family memorials, Dignity Memorial cemeteries offer a wide variety of cremation memorial types. Even if one's ashes are scattered, a beautiful and lasting memorial helps to ensure that memories will live on in the hearts and minds of family and friends.



Mausoleums

A mausoleum is a large building that contains aboveground spaces for caskets, cremation niches or both. You have the option of designing a private mausoleum where you and your loved ones can be together, or you may prefer a community mausoleum which is equally functional and beautiful.



Ground Burial

There are many ground burial options available for those who choose cremation, including private family estates or single and companion plots. Many cemeteries have designated areas for cremated remains or specially designed cremation gardens.



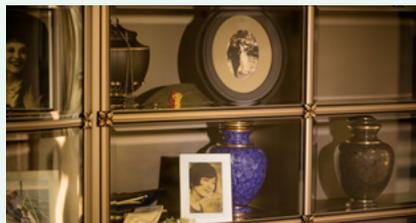
Pedestals and Boulders

Cremation pedestals are another beautiful option for couples or individuals and can be customized with unique granite sculptures that reflect one's personality and passions. A cremation boulder is a natural stone with a niche for cremated remains. It often features a bronze memorial plaque.



Columbaria

A columbarium is a memorial structure with bronze, granite or glass-front cremation niches. You can build a private family columbarium for your exclusive use, or you may purchase a single or companion niche in a community columbarium.



Granite or Glass-Front Niches

Granite niches can be engraved or etched with details about your loved one, similar to a headstone. In a glass-front niche, the urn and other personal items of remembrance can be displayed in celebration of a special life.



Benches

A cremation bench is made of granite and houses a cremation urn. There may be space within a cremation bench for one or two urns for an individual or couple, and benches may be personalized with custom sculptures or engravings.

Did you know? Couples or families can purchase cemetery property together, even if one person prefers cremation and another prefers casket burial. This is called "mixed-use property" and is a common choice for many people.

[Schedule an appointment to learn more about cemetery property options.](#)



STEP 3

Schedule a no-obligation planning meeting.



By making your cremation arrangements in advance, you can plan a service or memorial of your choosing and also select a permanent place of remembrance that reflects your special life. When you're ready to get started, schedule an appointment with a Dignity Memorial professional to review your options and finalize your plan. By planning ahead, you can:

Transfer your plan if you move: When you have a plan with a Dignity Memorial provider and move more than 75 miles away, your prearranged funeral services are fully transferable and will be honored by more than 2,000 Dignity Memorial providers in North America.

Secure today's prices: Like many things, funeral and cemetery costs may increase with time. If you

choose to prepay for your arrangements, you can ensure that your rates won't go up over time.

Gain peace of mind for yourself: When you make your wishes known by arranging your own final tribute, you help to relieve loved ones from having to second-guess what you would have wanted.

Provide peace of mind for your loved ones: Prearranging your cremation funeral and cemetery plan helps to alleviate the financial and emotional burden for your loved ones in a time of grief.

[CLICK HERE](#) to schedule an appointment with our planning experts or visit www.DignityMemorial.com to find a provider near you.

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