

How to Arrange a Cremation: A Checklist

www.usurnsonline.com/cremation/how-do-i-arrange-a-cremation/

Step 1: Choose your vendor

Funeral home or crematorium?

Call and ask about pricing and other options, compare several and choose what works best.

Business Name

Phone #

Price

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

Step 2: Decide on a funeral or memorial service

Funeral or memorial service?

A funeral has the body present, and would be done prior to the cremation. A memorial service is done without the body present, and can be done after the cremation.

- Funeral
- Memorial Service

Step 3: Get the death certificate

The funeral director can do this for you, or you can DIY through the Vital Records Office. Be sure to get at least ten copies.

- Funeral Director - Contact info: _____
- Vital Records Office - Contact info: _____

Step 4: Transport the body

Leave it to the professionals or DIY?

Through the funeral home is the simplest method. You may be able to find an independent transportation service for a little cheaper, but that takes time and effort to search. You can also transport the body yourself - but you will need a permit to cross state lines.

- Funeral Home
- Independent Service
- Do it yourself

Step 5: Fill out the paperwork

This will need to be filled out by the next of kin, and will be provided by the funeral home or crematorium at the appropriate time.

Next of kin name: _____

Step 6: Choose a casket for the cremation

Low cost, eco-friendly, and high end options are available.

You will need to make arrangements with the crematorium for one of these options.

- Rent casket from funeral home for the funeral service
- Purchase casket from funeral home for the funeral service & cremation
- Purchase casket from funeral home for the cremation
- Low-end cardboard container (provided by crematorium)
- DIY pine box
- Order a casket online
- Eco-friendly caskets
- Eco-friendly cloth shroud

Step 7: Choose a cremation urn

Choosing an urn is one thing you can do in advance, and this will save time, money, and stress for your loved ones later on.

You can purchase an urn from the funeral home, use the plain plastic or cardboard box it comes in, or order one online. We would love to serve your needs, visit us at [Urns Northwest](#) to view our collection of premium urns.

- Pre-purchase urn at funeral home
- Pre-purchase urn at Urns Northwest or other online vendor
- Purchase at time of need
- Use plain container from crematorium
- Make your own or use alternative containers

Types of urns:

- [Wood](#)
- [Metal](#)
- [Stone](#)
- [Ceramic](#)
- [Eco-friendly](#)
- [Scattering urns](#)
- [Companion urns](#) for two people

Step 8: Witnessing the cremation

Decide on which family members would like to witness the cremation, if at all.

Some crematoriums have accessibility for families to watch the cremation process, others do not and therefore cannot accommodate witnesses. Still others permit only a very limited number of witnesses. If this is an important issue, you may want to look for a crematorium that allows witnesses.

- No witnesses
- Witnesses:

Name & contact info: _____

Name & contact info: _____

Name & contact info: _____

Name & contact info: _____

Step 9: Final disposition options

Bury, scatter, keep: There are many options available for cremated remains.

Remember that you can divide the remains into multiple portions and mix/match any of these options for temporary and final disposition.

- Ground burial
- Eco-friendly ground burial
- Columbarium niche
- Scattering
- Scattering at sea
- Burial at sea
- Cremation urn kept at home
- Planted as a [memorial tree](#)
- Other _____

Read our article [27 things you can do with cremated ashes](#) for more unique ideas.