

Top 3 Cremation Facts You Need to Know Now

#1 You do NOT have to buy an urn.

While some sort of container is highly recommended, you are not legally required to purchase an urn. The ashes are delivered in a temporary container. People who are planning to scatter the ashes often transport them in this container.

If you would prefer to purchase an urn, remember that you do not have to buy one through the funeral home. There are many retailers who offer a wide variety of styles. When ordering an urn from another vendor, let your funeral home director know that you will have the urn shipped to the funeral home's address.

#2 A viewing before cremation is completely optional.

For some people, viewing the body in a formal setting can help people say goodbye. However, not everyone feels the need to view the body. You may want to check with family members to determine if a viewing is preferred.

If it is, you can have the viewing before the body is cremated. If not, you can have a direct cremation. Then celebrate the life of your loved one with a memorial service.

#3 Scattering the ashes is just one of many options.

Traditionally, people either scatter the ashes or keep them in an urn. But these are not your only choices. The possibilities of what you can do with ashes are only limited by your imagination and your budget.

For example, you can have the ashes poured into smaller keepsakes. Some people have tattoo artists mix ashes with ink to create commemorative tattoos. The ashes can be pressed into musical records. Scientists can even transform ashes into diamonds.