

Are coffins sold back to funeral directors for re-use?

No. The coffin and the body inside are cremated together. There are occasions where the deceased, or the family of the deceased, have opted to use a cardboard coffin, in which their loved one will be cremated. When this happens, families sometimes want to have a more aesthetically pleasing coffin or container for the service. Families, therefore, will opt for a 'pall' (a cloth covering the cardboard coffin), a 'cocoon' (an outer shell that covers the cardboard coffin), or they will decorate a cardboard coffin themselves. Neither the pall nor the cocoon is cremated. It is important to understand that the pall and the cocoon do not contain the body of the deceased, they are simply superficial coverings for a cardboard coffin.

Can I visit a crematorium and see what happens behind the scenes?

Yes. A visit may occur whilst cremations are actively taking

place, or not, the choice is yours. This 'open door' policy helps to dispel the myths that have been explained above. On seeing the cremation process, the viewer can be reassured that all cremations take place individually. Coffins are cremated with the deceased and the individual's identity is maintained throughout the process so that a family can be sure that they receive the correct cremated remains. If you wish to visit as a group, please contact us first as prior notice is required for health and safety reasons. The service also holds an open day, every other year.

For further information please contact:

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Bereavement Services
Chanterlands Crematorium
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Cremations

What you need to know
A list of frequently asked questions

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What is the proportion of cremations to burials?

Current figures show that around 72% of all funerals are cremations, although in Hull the average is 83% cremation. The number of cremations has exceeded burials since 1968.

Do any religious groups forbid cremation?

Orthodox Jews and Muslims forbid cremation. All current Christian denominations allow cremation, including; the Roman Catholic Church, Sikhs, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists.

Is cremation more expensive than burial?

No. Generally the cost of a grave is much higher than the fee charged for cremation, although the funeral charges are similar for both services. The only additional charge for cremation arises when the death has not been referred to a coroner and two doctors need to be paid for the necessary certificates. This does not apply to a burial.

What religious ceremony can I have with a cremation?

The services for a burial and a cremation are the same, apart from the form of committal sentences. The service may take place at your own

place of worship, with a short committal service in the crematorium chapel, or you may have the whole service at the crematorium chapel. Alternatively, you may prefer a civil ceremony be conducted, or even no service at all.

How is a cremation arranged?

The cremation regulations are complex and many people approach a funeral director immediately after death occurs, and advise them that they wish to arrange a cremation. The funeral director will ensure that all the necessary statutory forms for cremation are obtained and presented to the crematorium.

Can a cremation be arranged without the services of a funeral director?

Yes. The executor, or the nearest surviving relative may arrange the cremation service themselves. Hull City Council's Bereavement Service is a cremation authority that is a member of the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM), and fully supports the Charter for the Bereaved. The team will provide advice to persons arranging a cremation, without the use of a funeral director.

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Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin in to the cremator?

Yes. Please advise the crematorium if you wish to witness the committal. Arrangements need to be made in advance to minimise waiting time. For health and safety reasons the number of people viewing is limited and further details can be obtained upon request.

Is the coffin cremated with the body?

Yes. The coffin with the body inside shall not be opened or otherwise disturbed. The Federation of British Cremation Authorities (FBCA) code of cremation practice and the ICCM's guiding principles both specify that the coffin and the body shall be placed in a cremator and then the cremation will commence.

How soon after the service will the cremation take place?

The ICCM's guiding principles state that the container and the body shall be placed in a cremator and cremation commenced no later than 72 hours after the service of committal. Where a cremation cannot be carried out on the same day, the applicant for cremation will be notified.

However, at Hull City Council's Chanterlands Crematorium, we always aim to carry out the cremation on the actual day of the funeral service, unless exceptional circumstances prevent us from doing so. In this case the family will be informed.

How are cremated remains kept separate?

A cremator can only accept one coffin at a time and all the remains are removed from the cremator before the next cremation. An identity card is used throughout the whole process, until the final disposal of remains, thereby ensuring correct identification.

Can more than one body be cremated at a time?

No, each cremation is carried out separately. The aperture through which the coffin passes in to the cremator is of dimensions that will only safely accept one coffin. However, exceptions can be made in the case of a mother and baby or small twin children, so long as the next of kin or executor has made this specific request. Public inspection of the 'behind the scenes' procedures is welcomed in Hull to help to enlighten the public on all aspects of the cremation process.