

Natural Burial



Photo by Shashia Dwyer, Hastings Area, Cincinnati, OH

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What is Natural Burial?

- Traditional burial
- Non-invasive or natural preservatives (e.g., cleaning and cooling, plant-based care)
- Biodegradable containers (e.g., cotton, linen, hemp, wool, soft woods, found woods, willow, regrass, etc., preferably sourced and made locally)
- No vault (including butter dishing)
- 3.5' burial depth (only 2 states require deeper)



Casper Creek, Elizabeth, IL

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Who Wants It?

Kates-Boylston Funeral Industry Study 2021:

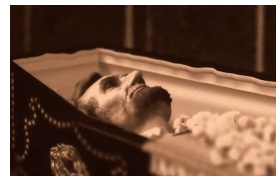
- 51.2% had attended a green burial
- 90.8% said that having environmentally friendly funerals is important
- 84.4% would consider green burial



Ramsey Creek Preserve, Westminster, SC

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How We Got Here



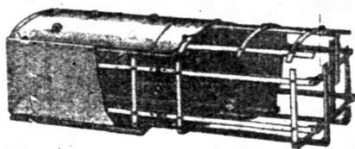
Shelton Lincoln on The Lincoln Special in Springfield — Photo courtesy of Library of Congress



Robert Hanes — Photo courtesy of Burialpage.com

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PROTECT YOUR DEAD



The OKEY BURIAL VAULT, made of cement and steel, is guaranteed to be air and water tight, and a sure protection against ghouls. Reasonable in price.

OKEY BURIAL VAULT CO.
209 LAW BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS

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Worker Safety Concerns

- Embalmers/funeral directors
 - 13x higher risk of early death (Burial and Cremation Institute)
 - 8x higher risk of leukemia (J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.)
 - 3x higher risk of ALS (J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.)
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease cases
 - Neurological diseases, Parkinson's Disease
- Maintenance and factory workers
 - Herbicides, pesticides (Round-Up)
 - COPD, respiratory diseases
 - Neurological disorders
 - Cancer



Google Images Stock Photo

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Environmental Safety Concerns

- **Manufacture, transportation of concrete vaults**
 - Emits .93 lbs. CO₂ per pound of concrete
 - (Average 800 lbs. CO₂ per concrete vault)
 - Vaults weigh between 2,000 and 23,400 lbs. (the latter being large)
 - 1,800 lbs. of CO₂ emissions per average low weight range vault
- **Fertilizers**
 - Phosphorus run-off
 - Algae bloom
 - Birth defects of water life
 - Death of plant and aquatic life

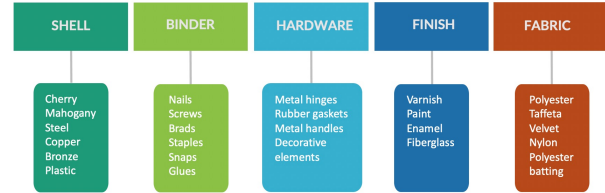


Graphic: Beazer Road Photo

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Casket Furniture

Casket components are called furniture—anything that goes into the manufacturing and presentation of the casket. The average American casket weighs between 200 and 450 pounds, depending on materials and construction. What does cemetery plume pollution consist of? Leachate from the following:



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FUNERARY ARTISANS COLLECTIVE

HOME MEET THE MAKERS THE COLLECTIVE CONTACT

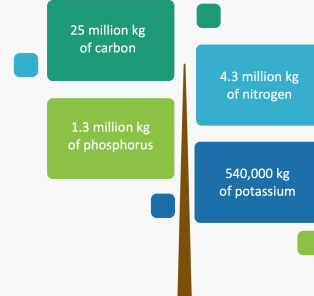


Environmentally Conscious, Handcrafted Funeral Goods

Our collective members design and make funeral vessels and products from responsibly sourced native materials using time honored techniques.

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Our Bodies, Our Climate



Each year, beneficial nutrients are prevented from being sequestered due to vault burial and cremation.

Natural burial allows nutrients from our bodies to be released and absorbed by soil, contributing positively to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resiliency.

Graphic by Beazer Road Photo, New Hampshire Funeral Resources, Education & Advocacy, nhfuneral.org

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Fears & Concerns

- Grave subsidence, sinking
- Animal disturbance
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pathogens
- Metals
- Water protection



Beazer Road Photo, Tampa FL

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The Natural Burial Experience



Beazer Road Photo, Beazer Road, Beazer Road, NC

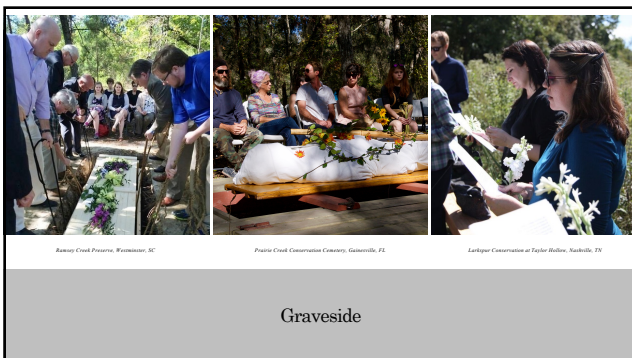
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