Leaving a Lighter Footprint
The Natural Choice®
**Scattering Tubes™**

- Adult ............................................. $95
- Matching Minis ........................... $45
- Personalization .................................. add $49

**BIODEGRADABLE URNS FOR WATER BURIAL**

**Sand and Gelatin Urns**

- Traditional ................................. $245
- Classic .................................. $245
- Oceane ...................................... $245
- Oceane, Sand ............................... $295
- Oceane, Sand White .................... $295
- Sand Round ............................... $295
- Quartz Round ............................... $295
- Toledo .................................. $245
- Oceane Sand Mini ....................... $125
- Quartz Round Mini ...................... $125
- Oceane, Sand Permanent .......... $345

- Salt Urn ........................................ $325
- Salt Urn Mini .............................. $175

- Journey® Earthurn .......................... $155
  - Adult ........................................ $155
  - Mini ..................................... $85

- The Shell™ Urn ............................. $325

- Memento™ Urn ............................. $295

- Turtle Urn ................................... $295
- Turtle Urn Mini ............................ $75

- Serenity™ Collection
  - Serenity, Sand Dollar ................ $395
  - Serenity, Dolphin ..................... $425
  - Serenity, Lotus ........................ $425

**BIODEGRADABLE EARTHURNS®**

- Chest™ Earthurn
  - Adult Navy Blue ...................... $155
  - Mini Navy Blue ........................ $85

- Simplicity® Earthurn
  - Floral ................................ $125
  - Wood-Grain ............................. $145

- Reflect® Earthurn
  - With Silk Bag ........................ $155

- Unity® Earthurn
  - Adult ................................ $155
  - Mini .................................. $85
  - Oversized—Floral .................... $195
  - Companion—Floral .................. $250

- Embrace® Earthurn
  - Adult ................................ $155
  - Mini .................................. $85

- Purity® Earthurn
  - Floral ................................ $155

- Memory Chest and Biodegradable Inserts
  - Memory Chest with insert .......... $425
  - Insert only ............................. $125

**Cornstarch EcoUrns**

- Terracotta ................................ $149
- Navy, Gold .............................. $175
- Floral (Green or Natural) .......... $195

**Cornstarch Urns**

- Rose, Going Home, Paradise ........ $175

- Bamboo Urns
  - Traditional ............................ $425
  - Tribute .................................. $175
  - Engraving .............................. add $70

**KEEPSEASKES & REMEMBRANCES**

**Blooming Remembrance™**

- Personalized Blooming Bookmarks (100 qty) ... $225
- Personalized Blooming Mini Cards (100 qty) ... $199
- Mini Blooming Remembrances™ (400 qty) ... $350
- Blooming Ornaments™ (200 qty) ............ $495

**Memorial Petals**

- 1–6 packages ................................ $7.95 ea
- 7+ packages .................................. $5.95 ea

**Handmade Memorial Stationary**

- Memorial Stationery Set ................ $175
- Photo Album ................................ $49
- Photo Frame ............................... $25
- Memorial Guest Book .................... $49
- Order of Service Cards ................ $29
- Memorial Parchment & Envelopes .... $29
- Healing Aromatherapy Sticks ........ $12

**Memorial Jewelry**

- Pendant (Oval or Round) .............. $395
- Key FOB ................................ $395
- Cuff Links ................................ $395
- Earrings ................................. $395
- Vintage Ring ............................ $395
- Signet Ring .............................. $395
- Gold Plated ................................ $395
- *Solid Gold available at a market price
- Large Picture Frame ................. $275
- Small Picture Frame ................. $205
- Large Plaque ............................ $225

**Permanent Keepsakes**

- Bronze or Pewter Heart Keepsake ...... $75
- Brass Shell Keepsake ..................... $75

**CASKETS FOR CREMATION OR GREEN BURIAL**

- Adult (Woven)
  - Willow ................................ $1,495
  - Seagrass ............................... $1,695
  - Bamboo ................................ $1,695
  - Willow Tray ............................ $595

- Infant (Woven)
  - 18” Willow Casket .................... $175
  - 24” Willow Casket .................... $249
  - 36” Willow Casket .................... $395
  - 45” Willow Casket .................... $549

- Infant (Handmade Paper)
  - 12” Premature Baby Casket ........ $125
  - 19” Baby Casket ...................... $195
  - 22” Baby Casket ...................... $225
  - 28” Baby Casket ...................... $249
  - 32” Infant Casket .................... $275

*Includes a three lining, pillow and Blooming Remembrance™ Heart.

Additional Blooming Remembrance™ Hearts can be purchased separately.

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For use with the Passages Natural Choice® Product Catalog 09/14. Prices subject to change.
Remember and celebrate a life well-lived. Within the pages of this catalog you will find product choices that enable you to leave a lighter footprint on the planet. This unique collection of urns, caskets and memorial products has been carefully selected to allow you to create a meaningful ritual. The products are designed to be attractive, functional and affordable, with no shelf-life when kept in a cool, dry location.

Passages International, Inc. takes great pride in producing and sourcing the largest selection of eco-friendly funeral products. We do not cut down trees to produce our urns and caskets, and most are crafted by hand from sustainable and renewable resources such as mulberry paper, willow, and bamboo. Whether you decide to scatter the cremated remains, place them into water, or choose a simpler, greener funeral, our products can help.

**Key**

The key below describes the significance of each symbol used in this catalog.

- Crafted by hand from sustainable and renewable resources.
- Biodegradable when placed into deep water.
- Biodegradable when buried in the earth or can be recycled after use.
- TSA-compliant. Can be carried onboard most commercial aircraft.
- Made in the USA.

Green Burial Council Product Standards: All GBC approved caskets, urns and shrouds must be constructed from plant-derived, recycled plant-derived, natural, animal, or unfired earthen materials, including shell, liner, and adornments. Passages offers the largest selection of certified products, with most of them receiving the highest 3-leaf rating.
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Be A Tree...
The Natural Choice®
MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

Creating new memories and living memorials, the Memorial Tree Program can make a positive impact during an otherwise difficult time. As part of its Memorial Tree Program, Passages® has partnered with nonprofit organizations dedicated to planting trees. These relationships allow us to offer your family a Memorial Tree certificate with the purchase of any adult casket featured in this catalog. Simply follow the instructions on the certificate to select a tree suited to your region. The sapling will be shipped directly to you, free of charge.

Certificates are available for purchase separately and are the perfect companion to any biodegradable or permanent urn.

Ask your funeral director for additional details or visit www.passagesinternational.com/memorial-tree.

The Natural Choice®
MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

Please accept our most sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one. Passages has partnered with an environmental organization to offer you a living tree in their memory. For more information and to order your tree, please visit www.PassagesInternational.com/memorial-tree.

FREE TREE with every Passages® adult casket order

Species availability map, subject to change. Offer only valid in the continental US and Alaska.
The urns in this section biodegrade quickly and naturally once placed in water, some in as little as 4 hours. If multiple family members or loved ones wish to participate in scattering or to create their own small memorials, miniature or keepsake-size urns allow for these options. See page 22 for details. Urns are hand-crafted and may vary slightly in size and appearance.

Water

Biodegradable urns are supplied with a biodegradable water-soluble bag into which the cremated remains must be placed. Federal and local regulations must be followed when placing an urn at sea (no closer than 3 nautical miles from shore).
Journey® EARTHURNS

Journey®, Green*

Journey®, Aqua

Journey®, Navy

Journey®, Natural*

Journey®, Embossed Pearl

Journey®, Embossed Fern

Adult: 12.5”L x 14”W x 3”H (220 Cubic Inches)

Mini: 6.5”L x 8”W x 2.25”H (60 Cubic Inches)

*Green and Natural are available in a medium size: 10.5”L x 11.75”W x 2.75”H (180 Cubic Inches)

Hand-crafted from sustainably produced, biodegradable paper.
Individually hand-crafted by skilled artisans from solid blocks of Himalayan Rock Salt. Deposits in this region are 250 million years old and believed to be the purest on earth. Unique in both color and finish. Will sink quickly and dissolve within four hours when placed in water.

**Himalayan Rock Salt**

- **Adult**
  8” Dia. x 10.25”H
  (202 Cubic Inches)

- **Medium**
  6.25” Dia. x 8.5”H
  (90 Cubic Inches)

- ** Keepsake**
  2.5” Dia. x 4”H
  (3.5 Cubic Inches)

- **Mini**
  4.5” Dia. x 6.5”H
  (40 Cubic Inches)

**Memorial Petals**

A simple and affordable way to enhance the funeral experience. The bougainvillea petals are all natural and sun dried. Each package holds about a cup and a half of petals.

5.5”L x 2.75”W x 1.25”H
Net Weight: 2 oz.
Create a unique, meaningful and participatory ceremony by placing hand-written personal notes into the urn prior to placing it in water. Crafted on antique molds from non-toxic, recycled, food grade paper and hand-painted using water-based paints. Twenty handmade paper note cards included. Packaged in a custom carrying case that is discreet and convenient. A donation is made in memory of the deceased to an ocean conservation organization. Custom colors available upon request.
Made from molded, recycled paper and packaged in a custom carrying case. Can accommodate two sets of remains. A donation is made in memory of the deceased to an ocean conservation organization. Custom colors available upon request.
Crafted by hand from recycled and kraft paper. No glue is required to seal the urns and each securely closes using leather cord. Convenient and discreet custom carrying case included.
Crafted by hand in North America from recycled paper using non-toxic glues. Optional Blooming Turtles add a comforting touch at memorial services. (Must be purchased separately.)
Oceane, Quartz White

Oceane, Sand

Adult: 7.25”Dia. x 9”H (200 Cubic Inches)
Mini (Sand only): 5”Dia. x 5.25”H (50 Cubic Inches)

Round, Sand

Adult: 9.75”Dia. x 8.25”H (210 Cubic Inches)
Mini (Quartz only): 4.5”Dia. x 4.5”H (40 Cubic Inches)

Round, Quartz

Permanent Oceane, Sand

Virtually identical to our popular Oceane, Sand biodegradable urn. Kiln-fired. Designed for permanent use.

Adult: 7.5”Dia. x 9.25”H (200 Cubic Inches)
Mini: 5”Dia. x 5.25”H (50 Cubic Inches)
Produced using a clay-like material to create an attractive and environmentally-friendly alternative. Designs on page 10 include real beach sand or crushed quartz applied to the outer surface of the urn. Urns have holes in the bottom, allowing water to enter. Designed to float briefly and dissolve within four hours when placed in water.
Earth

These sustainably-crafted urns are suitable for scattering, burial or storage of cremated remains. Choose from an extensive assortment of handmade paper, cornstarch or bamboo urns.

Earth Biodegradable urns are supplied with a biodegradable bag into which the cremated remains must be placed.
Earthurns® are produced by hand from the bark of the mulberry tree using an ancient technique that allows the bark to be harvested without destroying the tree. Each may vary slightly in size, shape and appearance. Suitable for temporary storage of cremated remains.
Unity® EARTHTURNS
Engravable

Unity®, Wood-Grain

Unity®, Floral

Unity®, Pastel

Brass Heart Keepsake, Pewter
2.7"L x 2.9"W (5 Cubic Inches)

Brass Heart Keepsake, Bronze
2.7"L x 2.9"W (5 Cubic Inches)

Adult: 6.75"L x 8"W x 5"H (200 Cubic Inches)
Medium: 7.25"L x 6.25"W x 4"H (120 Cubic Inches)
Mini: 4.75"L x 4.25"W x 3.25"H (30 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Floral Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Oversize
8"L x 9"W x 7"H
(360 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Wood-Grain, Wood-Grain Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Floral, Floral Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Pastel, Pastel Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Oversize, Oversize Companion
8"L x 9"W x 7"H
(360 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Wood-Grain, Wood-Grain Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Floral, Floral Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Pastel, Pastel Companion
8.75"L x 11"W x 7.25"H
(400 Cubic Inches)

Unity®, Oversize, Oversize Companion
8"L x 9"W x 7"H
(360 Cubic Inches)
**Embrace®, Autumn Leaves**

**Embrace®, White Hemp**

**Embrace®, Floral Bouquet**

**Embrace®, Purple**

**Embrace®, Green**

**Adult:** 8.5”L x 8.5”W x 5.25”H (230 Cubic Inches)  
**Medium:** 6.25”L x 6.25”W x 3.75”H (108 Cubic Inches)  
**Mini:** 4.25”L x 4.25”W x 2.75”H (40 Cubic Inches)
Made from durable and environmentally-friendly cornstarch. Featuring a secure “snap lock” closing mechanism to close **permanently**. Can be kept at home or placed in a cemetery niche or columbarium. Will not biodegrade or deteriorate until buried.
Mahogany Chest
8”L x 10.75”W x 6.25”H
Inside: 6.5”L x 9.25”W x 5”H

Pink Floral Bouquet Insert
6”L x 8.5”W x 4.5”H
(210 Cubic Inches)

Autumn Leaves Insert
6”L x 8.5”W x 4.5”H
(210 Cubic Inches)

Mahogany Chest is available with either Floral Bouquet or Autumn Leaves Earthurn® insert. Inserts available for other chest designs. Check chest dimensions. Available as a set or individually.

Traditional Bamboo, Caramelized
7.625”L x 7.625”W x 8.625”H
(210 Cubic Inches)

Traditional Bamboo, Natural

Tribute Bamboo
6.25”L x 10.25”W x 6.25”H
(245 Cubic Inches)

Handcrafted from bamboo plywood, a sustainable and rapidly renewable resource. Not a bamboo species consumed by endangered panda populations. The Traditional urns feature a Green-certified and LEED®-compliant, water-based finish. Bases affix with screws.

*Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design
Scatter

The tubes are designed for scattering and produced using recycled content. Durable, dignified and simple to use, they contain no metal or plastic components and can be recycled after use.
Add a photograph and/or engraving to any Scattering Tube™. Same-day turnaround available if we receive approved artwork by 2pm MST. Refer to page 39 for available fonts and clip art options. For more information, visit www.passagesinternational.com/scattering-tubes/personalized.
Scattering Tube™ DESIGNS

Engravable

Ascending Dove  Autumn Woods  Bluebell Forest  Burgundy

Camouflage  Forget Me Not  Mountain View  Navy

Adult: 5.1" Dia. x 12.6" H (200 Cubic Inches)  
Mini: 2.95" Dia. x 5.25" H (20 Cubic Inches)

20  The Natural Choice® Product Catalog
*Also available in Medium and Small

Medium: 4" Dia. x 10.1" H (100 Cubic Inches)  
Small: 2.95" Dia. x 8.9" H (40 Cubic Inches)
MINIATURES
for Splitting Remains

Salt
4.5”Dia. x 6.5”H
(40 Cubic Inches)

Round, Quartz
4.5”Dia. x 4.5”H
(40 Cubic Inches)

Oceane, Sand
5”Dia. x 5.25”H
(50 Cubic Inches)

Journey®: 6.5”L x 8”W x 2.5”H (60 Cubic Inches)

Suitable for infants
MINIATURES for Splitting Remains

Unity®, Pastel

Unity®, Wood Grain

Unity®, Floral

Unity*: 4.25”L x 4.75”W x 3.25”H (30 Cubic Inches)

Embrace®, Autumn Leaves

Embrace®, White Hemp

Embrace®, Floral Bouquet

Chest, Navy Blue

4.75”L x 6.75”W x 3.75”H (90 Cubic Inches).

Suitable for infants
MINIATURES
for Splitting Remains

Ascending Dove  Autumn Woods  Bluebell Forest  Burgundy

Camouflage  Forget Me Not  Mountain View  Navy

Ocean Sunset  Patriot  Rainbow Pond  Rose

Silver Lining  Sunflower Fields  The 19th Hole  White Leather

2.95"Dia. x 5.25"H (20 Cubic Inches)

Suitable for infants
Permanent & Semi-Permanent

Mahogany Chest
Insert sold separately - See page 17 for details

Bamboo Urns
See page 17 for details

Permanent Oceane, Sand
See page 10 for details

Cornstarch Urns
See page 16 for details

The Natural Choice® Product Catalog 25
**Bury or Cremate**

Crafted by skilled weavers from sustainable materials, such as fast-growing willow, seagrass and bamboo. Interior linings are made from unbleached, natural cotton.

Suitable for viewing and services, followed by burial or cremation. Can be used as part of a conventional or green funeral ritual. Appropriate for traditions requiring 100% biodegradability. Contain no metal components and no trees are cut down to produce them. Memorial Tree certificates are included with every adult casket. See page 2 for details. Ask about our bamboo name plaques. See page 29 for details.
Six-Point Willow Coffin

Willow Casket

Seagrass Casket

Six-Point Bamboo Coffin

Bamboo Casket

Suitable for green burial, traditional burial or cremation. Includes natural cotton lining and matching pillow. Handmade, may vary slightly in color and appearance. Viewing lid allows for open casket viewing or service. Floral arrangements not included. Dimensions based on inside measurements. Weight—tested to 350 lbs.
Willow

Six-Point Willow Coffin
5’9”: 70”L x 20”W x 12”H
6’5”: 77”L x 24”W x 12”H

Willow Casket
5’9”: 70”L x 20”W x 12”H
6’5”: 77”L x 24”W x 12”H

Seagrass Casket
5’9”: 70”L x 20”W x 12”H
6’5”: 77”L x 24”W x 12”H
Personalize any casket or coffin by adding an engraved plaque, which can be kept as a keepsake or interred/cremated with the casket. Up to 3 lines of text and clip art (space permitting). Can ship same day with approved artwork by 2pm MST. Refer to page 39 for available fonts and clip art options.
**Fabric Shrouds**

Suitable for burial or cremation. Crafted from tightly woven, natural fabric with jute carrying handles. Lift–weight tested to 300 lbs.

**Willow Carrier**

83.5”L x 24”W x 7”H

Designed for the dignified viewing or identification of a dressed or shrouded body and funeral services, followed by burial or cremation. Carriers have a flat rigid base and contain no metal or plastic components. Complies with the requirements of most natural burial grounds.

Test Weight: 350 lbs.

**The Natural Choice® MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM**

All adult caskets in this catalog include a Memorial Tree Program certificate. See page 2 for more information.
Infant & Child

Teddy Bear Scattering Tube
2.95”Dia. x 5.25”H
(20 Cubic Inches)

Handmade Paper Casket
12”: 12”L x 6.5”W x 4.25”H
28”: 28”L x 12”W x 9.5”H

19”: 19”L x 9”W x 8”H
32”: 32”L x 14.25”W x 11”H

Crafted from handmade paper using the bark of the mulberry tree and inlaid with flower petals. Each casket includes a fleece lining, pillow and blooming ornament.

Six-Point Bamboo Coffin
24”: 24”L x 10”W x 6”H
36”: 36”L x 14”W x 7”H

18”: 18”L x 7.5”W x 6.25”H
24”: 24”L x 9.75”W x 8.25”H

Suitable for green burial, traditional burial or cremation. Includes natural cotton lining and matching pillow. Handmade, may vary slightly in color and appearance. Six-Point Bamboo Coffin viewing lid (shown) allows for open casket viewing or service. Floral arrangements not included. Dimensions based on inside measurements.
Remember
Create a special memorial to loved ones with tangible and personalized mementos. These items allow families create lasting memories for themselves and others.
Handmade, die-cut shapes, crafted from recycled paper inlaid with fresh flower petals and seeds. When planted and watered, they will bloom into flowers, creating a living memorial to the deceased. Shapes can be attached to bookmarks and cards to be handed out to family, friends and memorial service attendees. Seeds are tested and have an 85% germination rate. Due to the organic nature of seeds, there is a chance that some ornaments may not sprout. Please visit our website for additional shapes.
Blooming ORNAMENTS

Dove
Pink - Wildflower
Blue - Forget Me Not

Angel
Wildflower

Starfish
Wildflower

Sea Turtle
Forget Me Not

Ornament with planting instructions
Blooming Ornaments™ come packaged in a cellophane bag complete with raffia tie and planting instructions. When planted and watered, they will bloom into flowers, creating a living memorial to the deceased. Crafted by hand, shapes and colors may vary. Seeds are tested and have an 85% germination rate. Due to the organic nature of seeds, there is a chance that some ornaments may not sprout. Please visit our website for additional shapes.
Dolphin Pendant
1.4”L x .9”W

Butterfly Pendant
1.1”L x .6”W

Round Colored Pendant
.9”Dia.

Small Oblong Pendant
1.3”L x .4”W

Small Oval Pendant
.7”L x .6”W

Oval Deluxe Pendant
.9”L x 1.4”W

Picture Frame
(crafted using cremated remains)
Small: 5.82”W x 7.82”L (3” x 5” photo)
Large: 6.82”W x 8.82”L (4” x 6” photo)

Memorial JEWELRY
Engravable*

*Space Permitting
Using a loved one’s cremated remains or a lock of hair, we hand-craft a permanent memento that can be passed down for generations. Keepsakes are a tangible and personal reminder of a loved one and the special time that you spent with him or her. No two are alike. Available in sterling silver, gold plated and solid gold. Pendants made from sterling silver include an 18” snake chain. Gold and gold plated pendants do not include a chain. Allow 4–6 weeks for production.
Crafted by hand from renewable resources using an ancient paper making technique to produce beautiful, one-of-a-kind stationery pieces. Each item is also sold separately.
Most urns and scattering tubes can be engraved. Additional and custom designs may be available upon request. Up to 3 lines of text and clip art (space permitting). Additional lines available for a nominal fee. Can ship same day with approved artwork by 2pm MST. For more information, please visit www.passagesinternational.com/engraving.
WHAT IS A GREENER FUNERAL?

Webster’s online dictionary defines the word “green” (as it pertains to products and services) as “not harmful to the environment.” Generally, a green funeral is any end-of-life ritual that is as harmless as possible to the environment.

At death—the final rite of passage—we use ritual to celebrate, honor and preserve the memory of a life. Many environmentally-conscious families today seek a mix of traditional and green funeral options. “A Greener Funeral” and its companion Web guide, aGreenerFuneral.org, have been created to help you learn more about what is involved in planning a greener funeral for yourself or a loved one.

The modern green funeral, also known as a “natural funeral” or “eco-funeral,” is both old and new. End-of-life rituals, including funerals and memorial services, are among the most significant practices of every culture on earth. These rituals have evolved over thousands of years of human history and many of the practices associated with greener funerals, such as shrouds, have long been in use.

Greener funeral practices are often compatible with the traditions of the major religions. Judaism and Islam, for example, have traditionally called for shrouds or simple wooden caskets and no embalming. Hinduism and Buddhism allow cremation, while traditionally, Catholicism, Judaism and Islam have not. Although cremation is now common practice among all religions, consult with your spiritual leader to see which greener funeral rituals honor your religious tradition.

The essence of a greener funeral is a reduction in environmental impact. Many people find that a more natural funeral is also more meaningful for the mourners. Among the options for a greener funeral is the use of biodegradable funeral products (caskets, shrouds and urns) made from sustainable, eco-friendly materials that minimize the impact on the planet.

CREMATION – USING FEWER RESOURCES

For many years, cremation has been the most common alternative to the traditional funeral. In some regions of America, cremation is chosen for nearly 80% of funerals.

Cremation is the reduction of the body to bone fragments through the application of intense heat. The fragments are then finely processed so that they can be placed in an urn for final disposition. Cremation requires no harmful chemicals like those used in the embalming process, and if the remains are scattered, no space in the ground is required.

Cremation uses far fewer resources than conventional burial, but it does have an environmental impact. Cremation requires the burning of fossil fuels, and some older cremation facilities use significantly more energy compared to newer ones. Mercury is also emitted when a person with dental amalgam fillings is cremated, but the development of effective filtration devices and the decline in the use of dental amalgam fillings will mitigate this problem.
“Flameless Cremation” uses less energy and is considered by some to be a gentler, more eco-friendly alternative to traditional flame-based cremation. The process, sometimes called Alkaline Hydrolysis, occurs in a pressurized, stainless steel vessel filled with a heated alkaline solution. The alkalis, found in common household products, act as the catalyst to accelerate the body’s natural decomposition.

Families choosing cremation can take additional steps to make the process more eco-friendly, beginning with the use of shrouds or eco-friendly caskets. Cremation also allows for the recycling of medical implants. Cremated remains may be placed in urns made from materials that break down naturally in the earth, such as bamboo, cornstarch or sustainably-produced handmade paper.

For those selecting water burial there are salt, gelatin and other biodegradable urns designed to float briefly, and then dissolve within hours or days, reducing the impact on aquatic life. Families who prefer to disperse or scatter cremated remains can use specially-designed, recyclable scattering tubes that facilitate clean, easy scattering.

Most cemeteries provide a variety of options for cremated remains, including ground spaces, columbaria (above-ground niches) or special gardens for the scattering of the remains. These are also greener options, because they use less space.

**NEW BURIAL OPTIONS - A LIGHTER FOOTPRINT**

Greener funerals have inspired a variety of new funeral products that are sustainable and eco-friendly. Whether you want to reduce your carbon footprint or seek a simpler, more natural way to go, there are more options now than ever before.

Green burial is a “new” practice that is really very old, because it is based on methods used by some cultures for thousands of years. Green burial means that the body, which is not embalmed, is buried in an eco-friendly casket or shroud in a manner that allows it to return to the earth as quickly as possible. For this reason, green burial is also called “natural burial” or “eco-burial.”

A green burial may take place in a conventional modern cemetery that uses eco-friendly methods or in a green cemetery. With green burial, graves are typically dug by hand, and concrete vaults or grave liners are not used. Landscaping consists of native plants and trees that help create or preserve habitat for animals. There are no manicured lawns, eliminating the need for chemicals, irrigation and gas-powered mowers. Trees, natural stones and other materials are used in place of elaborate headstones. Some green cemeteries even use GPS coordinates to “mark” graves.

Many conventional cemeteries and memorial parks have designated areas exclusively for green burial, so be sure to ask what options are available to you.

With cremation, there are additional “greener” burial options for cremated remains, such as:

**Water burial:** Cremated remains are placed in a biodegradable container designed to break down in water within hours or days.

**Scattering:** Cremated remains are dispersed on land or over a body of water. Many cemeteries have dedicated scattering gardens which provide a convenient place that families return to when they want to remember their departed loved one.

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