

Cremation

A crematorium operator requires a cremation permit before they will perform a cremation. Many of the steps necessary to obtain a permit can be managed by a funeral director or the executor of the will.

The steps to obtaining a permit are:

- the executor or next of kin completes a 'permission to cremate', which confirms the deceased person's wishes about interment
- the permission is given to the doctor that issued the medical certificate for cause of death
- the doctor issues a cremation certificate
- a medical referee confirms the certificate and issues the cremation permit.

In some instances, a coroner can issue a cremation permit.

A cremation operator must do one of the following things with cremated remains:

- give them to the applicant (most often a family member, trustee, legal guardian or executor of the will)
- dispose of them in land reserved for burial or cremated remains
- retain or dispose of them in some other way.

The applicant is expected to collect the cremated remains within a reasonable amount of time. Applicants should check details with the crematorium operator, as timing conditions may vary.

What can be done with ashes

There are no health risks associated with handling ashes. The high temperatures used during cremation render ashes inert.

More information

Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW is a statutory body created under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*, providing a strategic and coordinated approach for operators providing interment services in NSW.

For general information visit the website at www.industry.nsw.gov.au/ccnsw

Email: ccnsw.info@cemeteries.nsw.gov.au

Depending on the personal wishes of the deceased and any religious and cultural practices, ashes can be:

- buried in a cemetery in a plot (including in a family plot)
- placed in a columbarium or niche wall at a cemetery
- scattered in a cemetery
- scattered on private land
- scattered in public spaces including a beach, river, park or at sea
- kept in a decorative urn.

Some religious practices and beliefs do not support the placement of cremation ashes into physical objects such as commemorative glass ornaments or jewellery.

Scattering of ashes

It is important to obtain permission from the owner or manager of a location before scattering ashes. Consent is required from the:

- owner of land, for private land
- trust authority, for state parks and reserves
- local council, for parks, beaches and playing fields.

Permission or a licence from the Environmental Protection Authority is not required for scattering ashes. The proximity and sensibilities of other people in the vicinity should be considered.