

# Questions asked ...

## *about Cremated Remains*

This leaflet covers the various options for the final resting of Cremated Remains



**THE SEARSON FAMILY**  
**FUNERAL SERVICE**

*'We don't just arrange funerals, we create meaningful days'*<sup>TM</sup>

**[www.thesearsonfamily.co.uk](http://www.thesearsonfamily.co.uk)**

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### **WHAT ARE CREMATED REMAINS?**

Cremated Remains are the result of the cremation process, and they are just the skeletal remains and nothing else. The coffin, clothing, and linings vaporise into gases; only the bones endure the process. They resemble a loose, granular powder, the core mineral content of the human body. Once the Cremated Remains have been processed and ground to a uniform consistency, we typically refer to this as 'Ash'. Any metals, such as nails, pins and screws, are removed by means of an electromagnet.

Cremated Remains weigh approximately 2.5kg and are usually returned to the Funeral Home in either a Cardboard Box or a Plastic Container. You can choose an alternative Urn or Casket to meet your needs, or keep them in the provided basic container.

### **WHO OWNS THE CREMATED REMAINS?**

There are several interpretations regarding the rights to Cremated Remains; instructions may be detailed in a Will, or a Next of Kin may feel entitled. However, and to save any misinterpretation, and without any legal intervention to challenge otherwise, the person who signs the 'Application for Cremation' will be the person who will have the right to claim the Cremated Remains.

As Funeral Directors, we will only ever return Cremated Remains to the 'Applicant for Cremation' unless the Applicant provides a signed, written instruction stating a transfer of rights to another person.

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### **CAN I SCATTER THEM?**

YES ... Typically, families opt for scattering at the Crematorium Gardens, which are well-maintained, provide a tranquil setting and may be a place where other family members rest. However, there are alternative options, from favourite places to the water's edge, helping you feel more in control of your final resting place and one that meets the wishes of the deceased. Just be sure that if you are scattering on private land, the land owner provides their consent. It is important to remember that once Cremated Remains are scattered, there is no way to reverse the process. Always think carefully before making your final decision.

### **CAN I KEEP THEM AT HOME?**

YES ... Families often keep Cremated Remains at home; it keeps them near, or they may still be deciding on a final resting place. There is no legislation governing where or how you keep Cremated Remains; it's your decision.

### **CAN I BURY THEM?**

YES ... As the traditional burial is beginning to decline due to the lack of available graves, burying Cremated Remains has become more commonplace. Most Cemeteries have an area for Cremated Remains, or you may wish for them to be placed in an existing family plot.

Some families bury them at home, in their garden. We usually suggest putting them in a large planter or pot as a more practical option. In future years, if you move home, the planter or pot can be taken with you.

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### **CAN I TAKE THEM ABROAD?**

Taking Cremated Remains abroad is something some families do, either in their entirety or just a small portion to scatter somewhere sentimental. Taking Cremated Remains over another country's border will require some consideration; they will need to be declared, offered for inspection if requested, and some countries may require the deceased's Passport, even formal approval from the relevant Embassy or Consulate.

Typically, Cremated Remains are carried as Hand Luggage, and each airline has its own procedures and requirements. Some countries do not permit Cremated Remains from outside their borders. In any case, always speak with our family for advice and guidance.

### **CAN I SPLIT THEM BETWEEN FAMILY?**

It is not unusual for families to request that Cremated Remains be split or divided into equal portions. There may be several family members who want their own amount of Cremated Remains to keep or lay them to rest in their own way. Dividing Cremated Remains into any number of portions is perfectly acceptable; it's your choice, and we will willingly help facilitate this if requested.

### **I CAN'T DECIDE WHAT TO DO!**

Then do nothing. The last thing you want to do is make a rash decision. Just take your time, think about the options, and don't rush. If necessary, we can look after the Cremated Remains until you have come to a decision, and we can help you every step of the way in fulfilling your wishes. If you need more help, just speak with us, we are here to help long after the funeral is completed.