

GREEN BURIALS

DETAILS...

A green burial symbolizes a return to the earth. It does not include embalming, instead it involves refrigeration. Frequently, individuals are dressed in the traditional burial garment known as a shroud (garment made of pure linen or cotton). There is no plastic, zippers or metal closures on the shroud. Albeit, some people elect to be buried in their own clothing and to follow green burial practices clothing should not contain any plastic or metal. In keeping with green burial principles, caskets are entirely made of wood. There is no metal in the caskets, and they are designed to return entirely to the earth – completing the cycle of life.

CONSIDERATIONS...

When purchasing cemetery plots, green burial practices should be taken into careful consideration. Many cemeteries in Maryland require the use of an outer burial container (also known as a vault) and require the placement of a stone monument or flat marker. The reason cemeteries have a vault requirement is to support the earth above the grave, so it does not settle significantly, which causes the grave to sink and puts the monument at risk of tipping. Funeral Directors should discuss preferences and guide consumers to a cemetery that meets their wishes.

Resources: <https://greenburialcouncil.org>