CYPRUS CREMATION SOCIETY

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

COFFINS FOR CREMATION IN CYPRUS

What coffins will be permitted at our crematorium?

When cremation services become available in Cyprus, every coffin brought to the crematorium will need to comply with the Cyprus Cremation Law S3(1)/2016.

The Cyprus Cremation Society Company Limited will also establish its own coffin requirements to ensure that coffins are suitable for cremation, environmentally responsible and consistent with established professional standards.

Our aim will be simple: a coffin should arrive at the crematorium ready for cremation and should not need to be opened, stripped or altered simply because it contains materials unsuitable for cremation.

What does the Cyprus Cremation Law require?

Article 6 of the Cyprus Cremation Law sets specific requirements for coffins used for cremation.

A coffin must:

- be sufficiently strong to safely contain and transport the deceased;
- protect public health;
- be constructed from natural materials;
- be free from wood-preservative impregnation substances;
- be free from combustible primers used in combination with coloured coatings;
- be free from heavy metals such as mercury and lead; and
- have an internal lining made entirely from materials that are combustible or sublimable.

The law specifically gives examples of acceptable natural coffin materials including wood, bamboo and recycled compressed paper.

A crematorium operator must not accept a deceased person for cremation in a coffin that does not meet these statutory requirements.

The law also provides for metal or plastic items such as crosses, handles and similar decorative items to be removed before cremation.

Additional requirements at The Cyprus Cremation Society Company Limited

In addition to the statutory requirements, our crematorium rules will require coffins to be prepared specifically for cremation.

We intend that coffins will:

- ✓ be simple and lightweight;
- ✓ be made from suitable natural materials;
- ✓ have a natural, untreated or cremation-approved finish;
- ✓ have no varnish;
- ✓ have no heavy paint or unsuitable coatings;
- ✓ have no plastic or PVC fittings;
- ✓ have no metal coffin furniture or decorative fittings;
- ✓ use simple wooden or other approved natural handles;
- ✓ use suitable natural-fibre or other approved cremation-compatible lining; and
- ✓ contain no unsuitable glues, resins, preservatives or other materials that could adversely affect the cremation process.

This approach is consistent with established cremation practice, which recommends minimising coffin weight and avoiding materials that are unsuitable for cremation or may harm the environment.

Examples of coffins that could be suitable

The following are examples of coffin styles that could be suitable, provided that the particular coffin complies with the Cyprus Cremation Law and our crematorium's specifications.



1. Lightweight natural timber coffin

A simple coffin made from lightweight, sustainably sourced timber, with a natural finish and simple wooden handles.

This would be our preferred style.



2. Bamboo coffin

Bamboo is specifically recognised by the Cyprus legislation as an example of a natural coffin material. Such coffins would need to meet our requirements for strength, construction, lining, adhesives and other materials.



3. Wicker or willow-style coffin

A simple natural-fibre coffin may also be suitable, provided that its construction, lining, fittings, adhesives and other components meet our requirements.



4. Recycled compressed-paper or cardboard coffin

The Cyprus legislation specifically recognises recycled compressed paper as an example of a natural coffin material. Such coffins would need to meet our requirements for strength, construction, lining, adhesives and other materials.

Coffins that will not be permitted

Our crematorium will not accept coffins that contain materials or fittings that do not meet the statutory requirements or our crematorium rules.

Examples will include coffins with:

- ✗ metal handles or decorative metal fittings;
- ✗ plastic or PVC fittings;
- ✗ unsuitable synthetic linings;
- ✗ varnish;
- ✗ heavy paint or unsuitable coatings;
- ✗ wood treated with unsuitable preservatives;
- ✗ lead or mercury;
- ✗ unsuitable resins, adhesives or other materials; or
- ✗ other materials that could adversely affect the cremation process or the environment.

The coffin will remain intact

We do not intend to disturb a coffin after it has arrived at our crematorium.

Our policy will be that the coffin arrives fully prepared and suitable for cremation.

Subject to any lawful requirement, it will remain closed and intact from reception through to its placement into the cremator.



For families

Families will not need to become experts in coffin construction.

Funeral directors arranging a cremation at our crematorium will be responsible for ensuring that the coffin supplied complies with the applicable requirements.

We will publish our approved coffin specification in advance so that funeral directors and coffin suppliers will know exactly what will and will not be accepted.

Our objective will be to ensure that families can choose a simple, dignified and environmentally responsible coffin without the distress or uncertainty of having to make changes after the coffin has arrived at the crematorium.

Our approach

We believe a cremation coffin should be:

Dignified. Simple. Safe.
Environmentally responsible. Ready for cremation.

And, wherever possible, it should be made from natural, lightweight materials with minimal additional materials and fittings.