Dublin Cemeteries Trust Est. 1828

# GUIDANCE OF COFFINS AND ITEMS NOT SUITABLE FOR CREMATION

## COFFIN DETAILS

**Construction of the Coffin**
The coffin must be of wood, a wood by-product or other suitable material which, when placed in a cremator and subjected to the accepted cremation process, is easily combustible and does not emit smoke, give off toxic gas or leave any retardant smears or drips after final combustion. No metal furniture or fittings, whatever shall be used on a coffin for cremation. No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of such a coffin except as necessary for its safe construction and then only of a high ferrous content. Cross pieces must not be attached to the bottom of the coffin. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose. The coffin must not be varnished but may be covered with suitable cloth, or can be decorated with a thin layer of water-based lacquer or paint. Products manufactured in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) must not be used in the construction of the coffin or its furnishings. The use of polystyrene must be restricted to the coffin nameplate only, in which case it must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

**Lining of the Coffin**
The use of sawdust or cottonwool must be avoided. If circumstances require, suitable sealing material may be used, but no metal, rubber or PVC will be permitted, and on no account must pitch of similar substance be used.

**Clothing/Additions to the Coffin**
Only clothes made from natural materials such as cotton, linen and wool will be permitted. Man made fibres can cause excessive smoke and fumes and are therefore not permitted. It is also not permitted to put into the coffin any object of substance which will not be easily reduced by cremation without causing excessive smoke or fumes.

**Items that Should Not be placed in a Coffin**

- Anything containing a battery, e.g. mobile phone, radio, hand-held gaming device etc. (batteries can explode and cause damage to the cremator)
- Anything made from metal that would not combust, e.g. stainless steel, wrought iron (soft metal such as gold and silver can be placed with the deceased, but it should be made clear to families that they are not recoverable following the cremation as they will melt and become unidentifiable)
- Any fire arms, other weapons or ammunition
- Anything that will not readily combust, e.g. ceramic mugs
- Anything made from glass (glass will melt and then reform on the cremator hearth, which can cause damage)
- Anything made from or containing PVC
- Anything made from rubber e.g. rubber soled shoes
- Any clothing that is not made from natural fibres, e.g. nylon, polyester
- Glossy paper such as magazines - these will not combust due to the high print content
- Cremated remains from another person or animal - it is advisable to mix remains following a cremation rather than before it.
- Tins, cans or aerosols
- Anything containing alcohol or other highly combustible substance
- Anything that the family may wish to recover following the cremation - it would not be possible to retrieve items following a cremation as they will be destroyed or damaged beyond recognition

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## DEVICE DETAILS

Certain items may be a hazard during cremation - for example, certain implants or the presence of particular diseases. Certain hazards may need to be removed from the body before cremation can take place. Implants or devices may damage cremation equipment if not removed before cremation. Some radioactive treatments may endanger the health of the crematorium staff.

The presence of some hazards may delay or prevent cremation taking place. If you are in any doubt about this, please discuss it with the funeral director or relevant crematorium staff.

Battery powered and other implants that could cause problems during cremation, and need to be removed prior to cremation for example:

- Pacemakers
- Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs)
- Cardiac resynchronization therapy devices (CRTDs) Implantable loop recorders
- Ventricular assist devices (VADs): Left ventricular assist devices (LVADs), Right ventricular assist devices (RVADs), or Biventricular assist devices BiVADs)
- Implantable drug pumps including intrathecal pumps
- Neurostimulators (including for pain & Functional Electrical Stimulation) Bone growth stimulators
- Hydrocephalus programmable shunts
- Fixion nails
- Any other battery powered or pressurised implant
- Radioactive implants
- Radiopharmaceutical treatment (via injection)
- Metal handles or furnishings on the coffin