



BABY / INFANT CREMATION PROCEDURE

Our policies and processes for infant cremation are aligned to the latest guidance on Infant Cremations and in line with the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA), the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and the Cremation Society of Great Britain (CSGB).

We consider that cremated remains and ashes to be one and the same thing and supports the definition that ashes are *“all that is left in the cremator at the end of the creation process and following the removal of any metal”*.

This procedure has been designed to maximise the recovery of ashes.

The baby infant tray must be used to help with the recovery of ashes and the cremation technician must take note of the relevant Risk Assessment and Method Statement for the safe use of Cremation Trays.

The cremation technician must be qualified, and experienced and full use of PPE must be worn at all times.

Normal cremation paperwork and administration processes must be followed with regard to the Authority to Cremate Card and this card must follow throughout the process.

It is advised that a child cremation using the baby tray should be done as the last cremation of the day.

Preparation

- Assess Coffin and Tray
- Assess the weight of the tray and coffin before charging. Decide whether a one or two person operation is needed.

Cremator Charging

- Set Cremator to infant setting

- Place coffin and tray on hearth just inside cremator and move in using rake to required position. This position allows the technician to closely monitor the cremation process. This area can be less turbulent in some cremators and hence the risk of ashes being blown away by the air jets is reduced.
- The coffin and tray should not be directly under a burner as this is an area where major turbulence is created, and ashes could be blown from the tray and lost.
- Close charge door
- Particular attention should be paid to the operation of the door which must be closed immediately after charging. Motor failures should be responded to by manual overrides.

Cremator Operation

- Care must be taken to ensure the equipment is operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and that the cremation progresses as expected.
- Training should identify how to deal with potentially difficult cremations and manual overrides may be necessary if turbulence is identified.
- On completion of the cremation the tray can be withdrawn onto a trolley using a hook to a tray handle OR the tray can be moved to the charge door end of the hearth, lifted by the handles and placed in an area (in close proximity) to cool OR the cremator can be shut down (if last cremation of the day) and the tray withdrawn on the following morning when cool.

FULL PPE MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES

The later process is the most preferred method at Skipton Crematorium due to the lack of space and therefore, safe storage of a hot tray.

Ashes must be allowed to cool before reduction.

Ashes Remains

It is imperative that every effort is made to maximise the recovery of ashes, and therefore any remains in the baby tray are to be collected as delicately and dignified as possible and placed in a pestle and mortar.

- Any metal residue (ie staples from the coffin) are to be removed using a magnet with utmost care and respect.
- The remains are then to be cremulated by hand using the pestle and mortar to recover as many ashes as possible and then transferred to a baby ashes container.

DO NOT

- Strain to lift trays. Seek assistance if weight is excessive.
- Rush to complete tasks.
- Ensure that area where the tray will be cooled is identified to others.

DO

- Ask for assistance with heavy trays
- Wear appropriate PPE, and especially when charging and removing tray from cremator.
- Use lifting and transferring aids when available
- Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Keep areas clean, tidy and void of obstructions at all times.