Columbarium and Ossuary Q&A

Updated: June 18, 2026

Overview

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is a granite structure that provides a dedicated place for the inurnment of cremated human remains, often called cremains. Each individual space within the columbarium is called a niche.

What is an ossuary, and how much does it cost?

An ossuary is the center section of the round columbarium. It can hold more than 100 cremains. Each person's cremains are placed in a velvet or satin bag, which is then placed in the ossuary through the door in the top row of the columbarium labeled "Ossuary."

The ossuary is less expensive than any other form of interment at Groveland Cemetery. The individual's name, birth date, and death date are kept in cemetery records, listed on the cemetery website, and engraved on a marker in the garden. The velvet or satin bag may be ordered through the funeral home.

Location and Availability

Where is the columbarium located?

The columbarium is in the Cremation Garden on the north end of Groveland Cemetery, between Sections 7 and 8.

Can I select the niche?

Yes. You may select from the niches that are available at the time of purchase.

Costs and Purchasing

How much does a niche cost?

The cost of a niche varies based on its location within the columbarium. Niches in the top and bottom rows are less expensive than those at eye level. A niche for one person costs

less than a niche for two people. Please refer to the Groveland Cemetery website for current pricing.

How do I purchase a niche?

Contact the cemetery administrator to discuss available niches, pricing, and the purchase process.

How does the cost of a niche compare with in-ground cremation graves at Groveland Cemetery?

The price of a niche is about 33% less than the total cost of an in-ground cremation grave. In-ground cremation grave costs include the lot, interment charge, and monument. Please refer to the Groveland Cemetery website for the current price list.

Opening, Closing, and Engraving

Who removes and reinstalls the niche front?

The cemetery custodian or administrator will open and close the niche front because the custom hardware requires training. The charge for one open-and-close service is $200.

How is the niche engraved, and what does engraving cost?

An engraver is hired to engrave the name and birth and death dates on the niche front. Contact the administrator for current engraving prices.

What information may be engraved on the niche front?

The engraving format is standardized so all niches have a consistent appearance. The full name and dates of birth and death are permitted. Any additional items must be approved by the administrator.

Flowers and Decorations

What types of flowers or decorations may be placed at the niche?

To preserve the beauty and uniform appearance of the Cremation Garden, decorations are NOT permitted at the niche. Any decorations that are placed will be removed.