



CEMETERY DECORATIONS

What's Allowed, What's Not?

I. THE REGULATIONS IN A NUTSHELL.

1. Fresh cut flowers may be placed in ground level cemetery vases at the place of interment throughout the year.
2. Artificial flowers are permitted only between November 1st and the beginning of the mowing season. (The **actual** date will be posted for 2 weeks prior to the removal of any artificial flowers – this date may vary from March 1st dependent on the weather conditions.) Exceptions are made for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day and Armistice (or Veteran's Day); and they will be removed within ten days following the holiday.
3. Digging holes, planting flowers, shrubs or trees on a burial space is not permitted at any time.
4. Mylar balloons, glass items, ceramic items, items with metal or wooden rods, (like flags or pinwheels), or items taped to or wired to a vase, crypt or niche shutter are not allowed at any time.
5. Items that interfere with the maintenance of the cemetery grounds during the mowing season will be removed, (for example: large planters, multiple planters or stuffed animals, fences or rocks) and stored for a short time down in the maintenance area.
6. Arrangements that become wilted, faded or unsightly will be removed by park personnel.

II. WHY CAN'T I HAVE THOSE THINGS?

FOOD AND FOOD CONTAINERS

Food tends to become unsightly when it starts to deteriorate or decompose. It may cause foul odors. Food also tends to draw wild animals to the gravesite. Usually the types of foods left at a burial site are not a part of the proper diet for wild creatures and may cause them harm. Food containers appear to be discarded trash and become unsightly in the park. They give the appearance of “poor maintenance” if left lying around on burial spaces.

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

These may be made from glass, which can become dangerous if they become broken and hidden in the grass for anyone to step on. The consumption of alcoholic beverages in the cemetery is prohibited by our cemetery regulations. If visitors see alcoholic beverage containers, it gives the appearance that consumption has taken place. The display of alcoholic beverage containers on a gravesite is inappropriate.

MYLAR BALLOONS

Although mylar balloons may appear to be very gentle and beautiful and it seems out of context to say they are “dangerous”, in a cemetery setting they are very dangerous. When the balloon loses air or helium, the balloon falls to the ground. If it lands on a bronze marker and rests there, it becomes a problem. Something in the mylar causes a chemical reaction between the balloon and the bronze when the sun shines on it and heats up the balloon and the bronze. The silver color transfers to the bronze memorial and it doesn't come off. To remove the discoloration on the memorial, we must send it back to the manufacturer and have it refinished. This requires the memorial to be off of the grave for 8 to 12 weeks and will have a cost passed on to the customer depending on the size of the memorial.

GLASS ITEMS, CERAMIC ITEMS, INCLUDING GLASS OR CERAMIC STATUARY

Any of the above items may be very beautiful when brought to or displayed on a burial space, however, if they are blown over by the wind, frozen with water in them, knocked over by visitors, maintenance workers, or even animals, they may break. We have many visitors in our cemetery who walk on the grass, lie down on the grass, kneel to pray in the grass and they do not expect broken glass to be there. This could cause serious injury. People have a right to expect to be able to walk safely across the cemetery. Lawn mowing equipment can also pick up broken glass and throw it a great distance across the cemetery, possibly injuring someone. I'm sure that you would not want anyone injured by something that was brought to the cemetery in an act of love and remembrance, would you?

ITEMS WITH WOODEN OR METAL RODS OR STEMS (i.e., PINWHEELS, PLASTIC SUN FLOWERS, ETC.) BRICKS OR ROCK BORDERS

Many times these items will fall over, blow over, or be laid down in the grass. In the case of rock borders, the rocks are already on the ground. As the mowers come by, they can be picked up and launched like a missile or arrow across the cemetery. This could seriously injure someone visiting a nearby burial space.

PLANTING OF FLOWERS ON THE BURIAL SPACE OR SURROUNDING THE MEMORIAL

When mowing the area, it is impossible to mow around plants or flowerpots that have been planted on or buried in a space. This means that the flowers would be mowed down each time the mower crosses the space. Our cemetery regulations prohibit anyone, other than an employee of Mountain View digging any holes or planting anything within the dedicated cemetery property.

ANYTHING WIRED TO A VASE, CRYPT, OR NICHE

Many times wire will rust and the rust stains can permanently stain a granite shutter front. Since there are many gauges of wire and different weights for items which may be hung there, a danger exists to visitors from falling articles that have come loose from their displayed area. We cannot (and I'm sure you do not want to) assume this liability.

ANYTHING THAT INTERFERES WITH THE MOWERS

Items that interfere with the maintenance of the cemetery grounds during the mowing season will be removed. (for example: large planters, multiple planters or stuffed animals, fences or rocks)