



CEMETERY DECORATIONS

What's Allowed, What's Not?



FUNERAL HOME • MEMORIAL PARK • CREMATORY
LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON
www.mountainviewtacoma.com



I. THE REGULATIONS IN A NUTSHELL

- Fresh cut flowers may be placed in ground level cemetery vases at the place of interment throughout the year.
- Artificial flowers are permitted only between November 1st and the beginning of the mowing season, typically March 1st. Exceptions are made for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day and Armistice (or Veteran's Day). They will be removed within ten days following the holiday. Please review our yearly Floral Calendar online for any updates.
- Digging holes, planting flowers, shrubs or trees on a burial space is not permitted at any time.
- Mylar balloons, glass items, ceramic items, items with metal or wooden rods (like pinwheels or non-approved flags), or items taped to or wired to a vase, crypt or niche shutter are not allowed at any time.
- National flags no greater than 8"x12" are approved and available at the office. Flags will be picked up after Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and during regular park maintenance.
- Items that interfere with the maintenance of the cemetery grounds during the mowing season will be removed. For example: large planters, multiple planters, fences, solar lights, statuary, toys, stuffed animals, or rocks.
- Arrangements that become wilted, faded or unsightly will be removed by park personnel.
- No fencing or edging of any kind.
- No Signage of any type (Real Estate, Memorial, Yard Signs, Photo Signs).
- Items that do not comply with park guidelines or are deemed insensitive or inappropriate may be removed without prior notice, and Mountain View shall not be held responsible for items removed, missing or damaged.

II. WHY ARE CERTAIN DECORATIONS RESTRICTED?

At Mountain View Memorial Park, we honor the memories of loved ones by maintaining a respectful, serene, and safe environment for all visitors. While personal tributes are deeply meaningful, certain decorations can inadvertently create hazards, interfere with maintenance, or disrupt the beauty of the cemetery. The following explains why some items are not permitted.

Mountain View Funeral Home – Memorial Park – Crematory

FOOD AND FOOD CONTAINERS

While leaving food at a gravesite may be a heartfelt gesture, it can quickly deteriorate, leading to unpleasant odors and attracting wildlife. Animals drawn to burial spaces may consume food that is not part of their natural diet, causing potential harm to them. Additionally, food containers, once emptied, can appear as discarded trash and contribute to a cluttered environment. Leftover food and packaging can make the cemetery look poorly maintained, detracting from the dignity of the space meant for remembrance.

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Glass bottles and beverage containers pose risks, especially if they break and shards become hidden in the grass. Visitors walking or kneeling at gravesites may unknowingly encounter sharp fragments, leading to injury. Additionally, cemetery regulations prohibit alcohol consumption on the grounds. Even if an alcohol container is left as a tribute rather than consumed, its presence may suggest otherwise to visitors and disrupt the intended atmosphere of respect and remembrance.

MYLAR BALLOONS

Mylar balloons, though festive and visually appealing, can cause unexpected damage in a cemetery setting. As helium escapes, balloons may settle on bronze memorial markers. When exposed to sunlight, the heat can trigger a chemical reaction between the mylar coating and the bronze, leaving a silver discoloration that cannot be easily removed. Restoration requires professional refinishing, which takes 8 to 12 weeks and may incur additional costs. To prevent this issue and preserve the condition of memorial markers, mylar balloons are not permitted.

GLASS OR CERAMIC ITEMS (INCLUDING STATUARY)

Decorative glass and ceramic objects can be beautiful when placed at a gravesite, but they are vulnerable to breakage from wind, weather, accidental contact, or even wildlife. Once broken, sharp pieces may go unnoticed until someone steps or kneels on them, creating a serious risk of injury. Visitors expect to walk freely and safely across the cemetery grounds without encountering broken glass. Additionally, lawn maintenance equipment can pick up shards and send them flying, potentially harming others or damaging nearby memorials.

WOODEN OR METAL RODS/STEMS, BRICKS OR ROCK BORDERS

(INCLUDING PINWHEELS, PLASTIC SUN FLOWERS, ETC.)

Items placed directly on burial spaces, such as decorative borders or pinwheels with metal or plastic rods, can obstruct cemetery maintenance and damage equipment. Strong winds or accidental movement may cause these items to shift or fall, creating obstacles for groundskeepers. Rocks and similar objects pose a particular risk when mowing as small stones can be propelled at high speeds, potentially injuring visitors or damaging memorials.

PLANTING FLOWERS OR SHRUBS

While flowers and greenery hold sentimental meaning, maintaining consistent landscaping across the cemetery is essential. Unauthorized plantings, especially those creating borders or barriers, interfere with routine care and may be inadvertently damaged by mowing or trimming. Cemetery regulations prohibit non-staff members from digging or planting on dedicated burial spaces to ensure uniform upkeep and prevent disruption.

WIRED DECORATIONS ON VASES, CRYPTS, OR NICHES

Over time, wire-based decorations can rust and leave permanent stains on granite and other memorial surfaces. Additionally, items secured with wire vary in weight and stability—some may loosen over time and pose a risk to visitors if they detach and fall unexpectedly. To ensure safety and protect the integrity of memorials, these decorations are restricted.

ITEMS THAT INTERFERE WITH MAINTENANCE

Decorations that impede routine upkeep—such as large planters, excessive potted plants, stuffed animals, fences, solar lights, pinwheels, or rock arrangements—may be removed to facilitate proper grounds care. Cemetery staff work diligently to preserve the park's beauty and ensure all visitors experience a well-maintained resting place for their loved ones.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED TO ANSWER OUR MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND IT IS NOT A FULL LIST OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS. PLEASE SEE THE FLORAL REGULATIONS SUMMARY, THE MOUNTAIN VIEW MEMORIAL PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS AND OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.