



Scattering a Loved One's Ashes

A scattering ceremony can be a profoundly meaningful time of remembrance for friends and family. It can be held shortly after your loved one's passing or occur months afterward.

A scattering ceremony is commonly a private family occasion. You can bring music into the event, read prayers, or simply take turns sharing memories of your loved one. If you choose scattering, you will want to purchase a scattering urn, designed to easily disperse the ashes. Our staff can help you select the best urn for the type of scattering location.

Types of Scattering Ceremonies

The common image is one of a *casting ceremony*, when the ashes are tossed into the wind or sprinkled on the surface of a lake, river, or sea. Whether one person is responsible for the casting or it's a group effort of all involved, casting a loved one's ashes can present challenges. We advise that you check the direction of the wind and always cast downwind to avoid having the ashes come back to coat your clothes, skin and hair.

A *floating ceremony* requires the purchase of a water-soluble urn, which will float for a few minutes before sinking below the surface to bio-degrade naturally.

A *trenching ceremony* involves digging a shallow trench into the soil, which is then filled with the urn and raked over at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Many families, especially those who have planted a tree in remembrance of their loved one, choose a *ringing ceremony*. A trench can be cut into the soil or the ashes are sprinkled directly on the ground around the tree or shrub.

A *raking ceremony* involves pouring the ashes on the ground and then raking them into the soil at the conclusion of the ceremony.

A *sky ceremony* involves the use of a private airplane and does not usually involve family members. Our cremation professionals can provide a list of local, professional ash scattering services to assist you.

For many, scattering a loved one's ashes is a spiritual event and a way of releasing them back into the natural cycle of life.