



Woodvale
Bereavement Services

Any metals recovered form part of a deceased person's estate and the Executor may, therefore, wish to dispose of the metals in an alternative manner. If the Applicant for Cremation does not wish the metals to be recycled then a Form of Consent will need to be completed, prior to the cremation proceeding, which provides alternative options.

Arrangements can be made for the metals to be returned to the Applicant for Cremation or, if appropriate, the metals may be returned to the applicant with the cremated remains. If this second option is preferred, then the cremated remains cannot be strewn.

Please address all enquiries to:

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**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

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**Recycling
of metals
following
cremation**



Customer Service Excellence

Recycling of metals at Woodvale

Many people who are cremated will have had an orthopaedic implant provided during their lifetime and surviving family and friends may be concerned about what happens to it following a cremation.

For many years it was normal practice to remove the implant from the cremated remains and store it at the crematorium until there was a sufficient amount of metal to bury it in the grounds of the Remembrance Garden at Woodvale.

As environmental issues are now more important to people, this method of disposal has become less acceptable and like many other crematoria in the UK and on the Continent, any metal residue found amongst the cremated remains will be recycled, unless the Applicant for Cremation wishes to make alternative arrangements.

After cremation, any metals present will be removed from the cremated remains and temporarily retained at the crematorium. Periodically, all metal recovered will be collected and taken to a central point within the UK for recycling.

The collected materials will include orthopaedic implants and ferrous metals, mainly nails used in the manufacture of the coffin, and may also include an unrecognisable element of precious metal.

These soft precious metals, such as gold and silver, melt into very small globules following cremation and are not identifiable. In these circumstances it is not possible to return these metals to the applicant separately.

It is recommended that any precious metals in the form of jewellery are retained by the Applicant for Cremation and not cremated with the deceased.

The metals used for implants are special medical grade stainless steel, titanium and cobalt chrome, which are all produced from non-renewable resources. In the future, these resources will become depleted and such metals will become less available for operations.

Therefore, this recycling scheme helps to protect the environment as well as saving resources and providing potential benefits for the living.

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) has contracted OrthoMetals, a specialist company, to undertake the collection and recycling of metals on a non-commercial basis.

Any surplus monies derived from the nationwide scheme will be distributed to selected UK bereavement related Charities, such as Cancer Research and the Heart Foundation with confirmation from such Charities posted on the ICCM website. www.iccm-uk.com