

Coffins Covers for Cremation

A coffin cover is a temporary outer cover (a shell), which is used to encase the actual coffin to be cremated at Woodvale. Following the funeral service and prior to the actual cremation process commencing, the coffin cover is removed in the Crematory and, when practical to do so, is returned to the funeral director. The remaining coffin and its contents are subsequently cremated.

The coffin covers normally have the visual appearance of a traditional dignified casket, with an enhanced appearance. Inside this shell there is a practical internal coffin, which is removed and cremated without disturbing the deceased person.

In accordance with guidelines, provided by the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) of which organisation Brighton & Hove City Council is a member, Woodvale Crematorium will accept an outer cover to encase a coffin, provided that the following guidelines are complied with.

- Prior notice of at least 24 hours should be given by the funeral director when a cover is to be used.
- A signed authority must be given by the Applicant for the cremation authorising the use of the cover and consenting to its subsequent removal from the crematorium.
- Both the cover and the coffin must bear adequate identity of the deceased person contained therein.
- The staff at Woodvale must be satisfied, by prior inspection if necessary, that the cover is designed in such a way that prevents the possibility of damage being caused to the coffin or accident or injury to staff.
- Consideration should be given to the cover's dimensions, in particular the width, including any handles, so as to ensure that it can pass through the catafalque aperture in the service chapels.
- The coffin should have sufficient strength and rigidity not only to contain the body but also to withstand the rigours involved when it is placed into a cremator.
- Although every care will be taken, Woodvale cannot accept any responsibility for any damage to the cover howsoever caused.
- The funeral director must provide sufficient staff for the collection of the cover, which should be at a time and in a manner agreed with the staff at Woodvale.