

The Water Cremation Conversation Guide

What You Need to Know—and How to Talk About It



Why This Guide Exists

When you're planning for someone you love—or for yourself—you want to feel confident, clear, and calm about the choices you're making.

Water cremation may be new to you. That's okay. You don't need to know everything right now—just enough to start the right conversations. This guide is here to help you ask good questions, talk with your family or funeral director, and decide what feels aligned with your values.

What Is Water Cremation?

Water cremation is a modern, flame-free alternative to traditional cremation or burial. It uses **gentle water, alkalinity, and warmth** to return the body to its natural elements—without flame, smoke, or pollution. The result is clean, quiet, and respectful. Remains are still returned to the family, just like with traditional cremation.

For many families, the process feels simpler, softer, and more intentional—aligned with both their values and the way they want to say goodbye.

How the Process Works



- The body is respectfully placed in a vessel containing a combination of **approximately 95% water with 5% potassium hydroxide and alcohol** to return the body to its natural elements.
- The process happens in a clean, respectful setting. There's **no flame, no smoke, and no pollution**—just gentle warmth, time, and care.
- The water cremation process typically takes **three hours**, followed by drying and preparation of the remains. This is similar in length to traditional cremation.
- The result is the same: the remains—**a clean, light powder similar in appearance to ashes—are returned to the family.**
- Some families choose to keep them in an urn, scatter them, share a portion with loved ones, or create keepsake jewelry. The choice is deeply personal—and entirely up to you.

How to Talk About Water Cremation with Your Family

Choosing water cremation often begins with your values—but honoring that choice may depend on the people around you. Whether you're pre-planning or making arrangements for someone you love, this conversation can feel emotional. That's okay.

Here are a few ways to approach it:

- **Start with what matters to you.**

"I've been thinking about how I want to be remembered, and I want it to reflect what I value—simplicity, care, and connection to nature."

- **Explain what water cremation is (and isn't).**

It's not experimental. It's not strange. It's a clean, modern process that returns the body to nature—without flame or smoke.

- **Reassure them that remains are still returned.**

Just like with flame cremation, you can choose the urn, the memorial, or the way you want to be remembered.

- **Offer to share this guide.**

Sometimes it's easier to say, *"This explains it better than I can."*

You don't need to convince anyone—just share what matters to you. Most families just want to know they're honoring your wishes. Talking about it is the first step.



Questions to Ask Your Funeral Director

You don't have to lead the conversation—but these questions can help you understand if water cremation is available and if it's right for you:

- How does the process work at your funeral home?
- How does the cost compare to traditional cremation?
- Can I still choose the urn or memorial option I want?
- Is this option appropriate for my cultural or religious tradition?
- Do you offer water cremation through AquaCare?



What Families Often Ask

● Will I receive ashes back?

Yes. Just like with traditional cremation, the remains—similar in appearance to ashes—are returned to your family.

● Is water cremation legal?

Yes. It's a fully approved and regulated process, available in a growing number of states and trusted by institutions nationwide.

● Is it a new trend or a fad?

No. Water cremation has been used for decades—especially in medical and university settings. Its recent growth comes from shifting values, not hype.

● How much does it cost?

Water cremation is typically **slightly more expensive than flame cremation**, but still **less expensive than burial** in most cases. Your funeral director will oversee all pricing, but this option is designed to be accessible for families who want a cleaner, more modern farewell.

● Does water cremation go by other names?

Yes. It's also known as **alkaline hydrolysis, aquamation, bio-cremation, or flameless cremation** depending on the provider or state.

How to Start the Conversation with Your Funeral Director

You don't need to make a speech. One simple line is all it takes:



I've been learning about water cremation and I'd like to know if it's available through your funeral home—and if AquaCare is an option.

That's it. It opens the door to a respectful, informed conversation.

Next Steps

- Ask your funeral director if they partner with AquaCare.
- If they don't, we're happy to connect and support the process.
- You can also contact Joseph H. Brown Jr. Funeral Home—a trusted Baltimore funeral home with four generations of experience.

AquaCare

1-833-800-2782

aquacarecremation.com

Joseph H. Brown Jr. Funeral Home

410-383-2700

josephhbrown.com



Whenever You're Making the Decision, We're Here to Help

Whether you're planning ahead or facing a decision right now, we hope this guide brought you clarity and peace of mind.

This isn't about selling a service. It's about helping families find the option that feels right—emotionally, spiritually, and practically.

We're here when you're ready.

—The AquaCare Team