



Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit & Island Counties

2004 Survey of Funeral Home Costs

Compiled by the People's Memorial Price Survey Committee
October 2004, updated April 2005

People's Memorial Association (PMA) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1939 to advocate for the needs of funeral consumers in response to the high-pressure sales tactics of the funeral industry. Since its beginning, PMA has provided educational information to assist individuals and families make informed choices regarding end of life arrangements. Every two years the board of PMA conducts a price survey of funeral homes in its service area to keep the public informed of current costs for cremation and burial.

In compiling the data for the 2004 funeral home price survey, the committee collected General Price Lists (GPLs) from 120 funeral homes in western and central Washington. In order to enable consumers to make as fair a price comparison as possible, we made every attempt to try and assure that we were indeed comparing apples to apples for the three basic plans presented in this consumer version of the survey. The information for this purpose was based on what was printed in each mortuary's most recent GPL. While all funeral homes are required to comply with the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule of 1984 regarding disclosure of costs, the reality is that some price lists are more complete and detailed than others. If it was unclear whether costs such as refrigeration or crematory fee were included in package prices, we added them into the total we used for comparison purposes. For calculating the cost of direct burial or a complete funeral service we included the price of the least expensive casket listed on the printed GPL or casket price list from the funeral home. The actual price you pay for services and merchandise at any of these funeral homes may vary.

For comparison purposes, the descriptions of the services and merchandise included in each of the three plans compared in this survey are as listed below. Included in the cost calculation for each of the three plans are the following **Basic Services**: **1)** Removal of the deceased, 24 hours a day from either a home or health care setting and delivery to the funeral home within a 25 mile service area; **2)** Arrangements conference with the survivors; **3)** Filing of necessary permits and death certificate; **4)** Sheltering and refrigeration of the body; **5)** Non-declinable fee which covers funeral home overhead.

Direct Cremation:

In addition to basic services described above, includes delivery of the body to the crematory (if not performed at the funeral home) and the cost of the actual cremation in a basic alternative container with a basic urn to hold the cremated remains for pickup by survivors.

Direct Burial:

Basic services listed above, plus preparation of the body and placement in a minimum casket with delivery to a local cemetery for burial. No ceremonies are included. The least expensive burial casket listed on the funeral home price was used in calculating this total. At some funeral homes that may be a \$150 casket, at others it may be \$1,500.

Full Funeral Service:

Standard services described above plus minimum casket, embalming, dressing, cosmetology, visitation and chapel service at funeral home, Monday thru Friday during regular business hours. Also included are handling of flowers and delivery of body to a local cemetery, but not a procession or graveside ceremony.

People's Memorial Association (PMA) contracts with fourteen funeral homes in western and central Washington. Members of PMA receive special pricing on six basic packages for either cremation or burial and discounts on additional services or merchandise at any of our contracted facilities.

People's Memorial Association currently contracts with the following funeral homes:

- **Seattle: Acacia**
- **Renton: Barton**
- **Auburn: Price-Helton**
- **Kirkland: Barton**
- **North Bend: Snoqualmie Valley Chapel**
- **Everett: Evergreen**
- **Puyallup: Powers**
- **Olympia: Mills & Mills**
- **Bellingham: Jerns**
- **Yakima: Shaw & Sons**
- **Wapato: Merritt**
- **Wenatchee: Jones & Jones**
- **Cashmere: Braun**
- **Waterville: Waterville**

PMA Plans As a member of PMA, you have the right to choose any of the following six plans for final arrangements with the assurance that you and your survivors will receive no sales pressure whatsoever to upgrade either the casket, urn or services. You or your survivors may however at your own initiative choose to add further merchandise or services at PMA-discounted prices as desired.

Standard Services for All PMA Plans All PMA Plans include the pick-up of the remains of the deceased PMA member at any hour of the day or night within the local 30 mile service area of selected funeral home, sheltering of remains and refrigeration, conference with survivors for arrangements, procurement and filing all certificates and permits to comply with local regulations.

Plan 1 - Direct Cremation **\$599**
Cremation of the remains in an alternative container, standard container for the ashes and storage of ashes for up to 90 days for pickup by survivors.

Plan 2 - Direct Cremation plus Memorial Service **\$999**
Cremation of the remains in an alternative container, standard container for the ashes and temporary storage of ashes for up to 90 days for pickup by survivors. Includes use of chapel facilities, handling of flowers, and directing memorial-type services at mortuary on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Plan 3 - Direct Burial WITHOUT Graveside Service **\$999**
Basic cloth-covered casket, delivery of casketed remains on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to a cemetery in the local service area. This plan does not include a graveside service.

Plan 4 - Direct Burial WITH Graveside Service **\$1,299**
Basic cloth-covered casket, delivery of casketed remains on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to a cemetery in the local service area. This plan includes a graveside service.

Plan 5 - Full Mortuary Services with Basic Casket **\$1,899**
Basic cloth-covered casket and the following services as requested: embalming, dressing, cosmetology, use of chapel and/or viewing facilities, directing services at mortuary Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, handling of flowers, delivery to cemetery in the local service area. This plan does not include a procession or graveside service.

Plan 6 - Full Mortuary Services with Metal Casket **\$2,299**
Basic 20-gauge metal casket and the following services as requested: embalming, dressing, cosmetology, use of chapel and/or viewing facilities, directing services at mortuary Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, handling flowers, delivery of the casketed remains to a cemetery in the local service area without a procession or graveside service.

For further information, contact:

People's Memorial Association
206-325-0489 or 1-866-325-0489

pmainfo@peoplesmemorial.org www.peoplesmemorial.org

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<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>Direct Cremation</u>	<u>Direct Burial</u>	<u>Full Funeral Service</u>
Peoples Memorial Association (Non-Profit)	599	999	1,899
Served by 14 Funeral Homes www.peoplesmemorial.org			
<u>SNOHOMISH COUNTY:</u>			
<u>EVERETT:</u>			
American Memorial Funeral (American Memorial) 3125 Colby Ave, Suite C 800-248-1745	1,264	1,315	2,950
Evergreen Funeral Home (Alderwoods) 4504 Broadway 425-252-2244	1,820	2,240	4,390
Purdy & Walters with Cassidy (SCI) 1702 Pacific Ave. 425-252-2191	1,575	2,710	4,145
Solie Funeral Home (Independent) 3301 Colby Avenue 425-252-5159	1,020	2,155	2,920
<u>LYNNWOOD:</u>			
Cremation Society Northwest (Stewart) 4202 - 198th Street SW, Suite 1 425-776-8900	781	1,588	n/a
Neptune Society (Neptune) 19324 - 40th Avenue W, Suite A 425-762-8688	1,199	n/a	n/a
Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills (SCI) 409 Filbert Road 425-672-1800	1,575	3,210	4,645
<u>EDMONDS:</u>			
Beck's Funeral Home (Independent) 405 Fifth Avenue S 425-771-1234	1,575	2,705	3,855
<u>MARYSVILLE:</u>			
American Burial & Cremation Svcs (Alderwoods) 8801 State Avenue 800-575-2857	675	1,205	n/a
Funeral Alternatives of Snohomish Cty (Independent) 1321 State Avenue 360-658-1921	795	1,965	2,715
Schaefer-Shipman Funeral Home (Alderwoods) 804 State Avenue 360-659-3711	2,025	2,465	4,885
<u>SNOHOMISH:</u>			
Bauer Funeral Chapel (Alderwoods) 701 First Street 360-568-4126	1,960	2,320	4,070
<u>MONROE:</u>			
Purdy & Kerr with Dawson Funeral Home (SCI) 409 W Main Street 360-794-7049	1,275	3,210	4,645
<u>ARLINGTON:</u>			
Weller Funeral Home (SCI) 327 N. McLeod Avenue 360-435-2509	1,275	3,200	4,645
<u>STANWOOD:</u>			
Gilbertson Funeral Home (Independent) 27001 - 88th Avenue NW 360-629-2101	1,772	2,320	3,500
<u>SKAGIT COUNTY:</u>			
<u>MOUNT VERNON:</u>			
Affordable Burial & Cremation Svc (Independent) 17910 State Rt 536 Suite B 800-905-1322	945	1,590	2,500
Hawthorne Funeral Home (Independent) 1825 East College Way 360-424-1154	1,870	2,265	3,190

	<u>Direct Cremation</u>	<u>Direct Burial</u>	<u>Full Funeral Service</u>
<u>WHATCOM COUNTY:</u>			
<u>BELLINGHAM:</u>			
American Burial & Cremation Svcs (Alderwoods) 112 Ohio Street, Suite 206 800-575-8823	740	1,365	n/a
Jerns Funeral Chapel (Alderwoods) 800 East Sunset Drive 360-734-0070	1,750	2,440	3,955
Jones-Moles Funeral Home (Independent) 2465 Lakeway Drive 360-733-0510	2,144	2,675	4,345
Westford Funeral Home (Independent) 1301 Broadway 360-734-1717	1,955	2,305	3,970
<u>FERNDALE:</u>			
Ferndale-Moles Funeral Home (Independent) 2039 Main Street 360-384-1391	1,920	2,360	3,770
Greenacres-Moles Funeral Home (Independent) 5700 Northwest Road 360-384-3401	1,920	2,360	3,770
<u>LYNDEN:</u>			
Lynden-Moles Funeral Home (Independent) 1907 Front Street 360-318-1321	1,920	2,360	3,370
<u>BLAINE:</u>			
Jerns & McKinney Funeral Chapel (Alderwoods) 464 8th Street 360-734-0070	1,750	2,440	3,955
<u>ISLAND COUNTY:</u>			
<u>OAK HARBOR:</u>			
Burley Funeral Chapel (Hamilton) 30 SE Ely Street 360-675-3219	n/a	2,930	3,895
<u>LANGLEY:</u>			
Visser Funeral Home (Independent) 432 3rd Street 360-221-6600	1,555	2,393	3,372