

## THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

The traditional memorial ceremony and returning of the ashes remains unchanged. In fact, families receive more ash remains from this process, on average a 20% increase.



## A GREEN CHOICE

*Why is this considered an environmentally friendly choice?*

With Aquamation there are no direct emissions of harmful greenhouse gases or mercury to the atmosphere.

This process does not burn any fossil fuels. It is very energy efficient - greater than 90% energy savings compared to flame cremation, with 1/10th of the carbon footprint. There is no burning of fossil fuels.

*What is the impact of the water usage?*

Virtually zero. The aquamation process uses less water than a single household uses in one day. This includes all of the water used for the process, along with the clean water rinsing of the final remains and vessel.



SOUTH BAY PET  
AQUAMATION

A flameless cremation process that uses water instead of fire



A gentle and respectful process



No emissions of harmful greenhouse gases or mercury



Over 90% energy savings when compared to flame-based cremation



1/10 the carbon footprint of flame-based cremation



20% more ash remains returned to the family

AQUAMATION

The gentle, eco-friendly  
alternative to flame cremation

For more information:  
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Water <sup>is</sup> NOT FIRE

# AQUAMATION

*Our water-based process is an eco-friendly alternative to flame cremation and burial. It uses water instead of fire to return a body back to Mother Nature.*

## A FLAMELESS PROCESS

The scientific name for this water-based process is alkaline hydrolysis. It is the same process that occurs as part of nature's course when a body is laid to rest in the soil. We use a combination of water flow, temperature, and alkalinity to accelerate nature's process.

## WHO SUPPORTS IT

For over 20 years, trusted institutions have chosen this process for the dignified and environmentally conscious disposition of bodies donated to medical science. The MAYO Clinic, UCLA Medical School, and UTSW Medical School have chosen this process for their distinguished willed body programs.

## FAMILIES HAVE EXPRESSED

- ◆ They are grateful to have a choice.
- ◆ They prefer a process that does not use fire or flame.
- ◆ They prefer receiving 20-30% more of their loved ones' ashes returned to the family.
- ◆ They believe this to be a more gentle option than flame-based cremation.
- ◆ They value the decreased environmental impact of the process.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What actually happens...?*

With Aquamation, an individual body is respectfully placed in a container that is then placed in a clean, stainless steel vessel. A combination of gentle water flow, temperature, and alkalinity are used to accelerate the natural process of tissue hydrolysis. All organic material is reduced to its most basic building blocks.

At the end of the process, there is no DNA or RNA remaining. The sterile process water is released for recycling (our bodies are approximately 65% water to begin with), and only the inorganic bone minerals remain. The minerals are processed into powder and returned to the family in an urn.

### *Is the body dissolved in acid...?*

No, Aquamation uses a catalyst called alkali, which is the chemical opposite of an acid. Alkalis are made from sodium and potassium salts.

### *Are the alkalis used in this process safe for the environment...?*

Yes. The water-based process uses a solution of 95% water and 5% alkali (a combination of sodium and potassium hydroxide). The alkalis used in this process are the same alkalis used in biodiesel production, common cosmetic products, body washes, shaving creams, and even in food preparation. At the end of the process, the chemical has been completely consumed, neutralized, and no longer remains in the water solution.

### *What happens to the water..?*

The water is returned to the ecosystem via the normal wastewater treatment facility, just as all funeral homes in the United States do during the embalming process. The Aquamation process produces a completely sterile solution of amino acids, sugars, nutrients, salts, and soap in a water solution. These are the byproducts of natural decomposition.

### *Are the powdered ashes safe to handle...?*

Yes, the remains are 100% safe, pathogen and disease free. The ash that is returned to the family is simply bone mineral, or calcium phosphate. The ashes will keep in an urn, or may be buried or scattered in a special place as some families choose to do.

