

HOW MUCH DOES A GRAVE MARKER COST?

Grave markers (historically called headstones or tombstones) are permanent tributes to loved ones. Purchased separately from cemetery property, there are several common types of markers in a variety of shapes and sizes. Each cemetery has its own policies on the type of grave markers allowed, and costs vary according to a number of factors, including material, size and customization.

Most people buy grave markers from a funeral home or cemetery, but they can also be purchased elsewhere and installed by your cemetery for a fee.

In this article you will learn:

- [What is the purpose of grave markers?](#)
- [How much do grave markers cost?](#)
- [Where can I buy a grave marker?](#)
- [What questions should I ask when buying a grave marker?](#)
- [What are the types of grave markers and monuments?](#)
- [What are companion or family grave markers?](#)
- [What is the average cost of marker engraving?](#)
- [How much does it cost to install a grave marker?](#)
- [How long before a marker can be installed on a grave?](#)
- [What happens if there is a problem with a grave marker?](#)

Grave markers help tell life stories

People have created ways to remember loved ones since ancient times. For many, it's important to leave a permanent remembrance that represents their legacy for the generations that follow. Graves and their markers serve as a place for children and loved ones to visit and remember dear relatives; they are also used as genealogical records for ancestry researchers. Available for both traditional full-body burial and buried cremated remains, unique, personalized memorials come in a variety of sizes and materials.

How much do grave markers cost?



Flat markers range from \$500 to \$5,000 and up



Upright monuments start at \$1,500 to \$3,500



[Specialty markers typically start at \\$15,000](#)

Where can I buy a grave marker?

A funeral or cemetery professional can guide you through the process of choosing a marker. There's no rush to make a decision and no rule on when a grave marker needs to be placed after a funeral. It's okay to take your time determining the best way to memorialize a loved one.

In most areas, you can buy grave markers from cemeteries, funeral homes, monument companies or online retailers.

Buying markers from a cemetery

Most buyers purchase their cemetery property and grave marker at the same time. Cemeteries will coordinate every detail of the purchase on your behalf, from getting a quote, ordering, design, delivery and installation. And the cemetery staff members are very knowledgeable about property requirements, so you know the style you order will be accepted in the cemetery section you have purchased.

Plus, when buying in advance, you can take advantage of monthly payment plans offered by the cemetery. And, in some cases, if the marker was purchased and engraved in advance, it can be delivered and installed more quickly at the time of need.

Buying markers from a funeral home

Some families choose to buy their grave markers from their funeral homes or combined funeral home and cemetery providers. In this case, the funeral director will coordinate all the details for you. You will still have a single point of contact from quote to delivery, although there may be a bit more processing and paperwork due to the pass-through cost. This is a good option when your cemetery property is small, private or does not provide a full-service offering for grave markers.

Buying markers from a monument company or online retailer

When you buy a grave marker directly from a monument company, you can shop for the best value or find choices that a funeral home or cemetery may not offer. This approach puts you in control of every detail. However, you will also be responsible for all of the coordination, from getting a quote, ordering, design, proofing, delivery and installation. Buyers are responsible for knowing the grave marker rules of the cemetery and purchasing the material and size of marker accepted at their preferred location, among other details. If you decide to buy a grave marker at a stand-alone retailer, we recommend you ask the following questions:

1. What type of markers and monuments are allowed in the cemetery?
2. What size of marker or monument is allowed? Are the sizes standard or custom?
3. What materials and colors are allowed? (Some cemeteries place restrictions on types of stone or require specific colors.)
4. What are other restrictions enforced by the cemetery? (Some cemeteries have restrictions on polished stone. Ensure customizations like flower vases, edging or ceramics, and color photos are permitted if you're interested in those options.)

Dignity Memorial® 100% Service Guarantee

When buying grave markers from Dignity Memorial-affiliated funeral homes and cemeteries, you can count on our 100% Service Guarantee. Because we hold ourselves to a strict standard of excellence, we offer every family we serve a straightforward promise: in the event that you are not 100% satisfied with any aspect of our service, we'll make every effort to correct the situation immediately. If the situation cannot be corrected, the family will receive a refund for the unsatisfactory portion of the service.