



## A Flameless Cremation

*Our Natural Green Cremation process is an environmentally friendly alternative to flame cremations and burials. It uses water instead of fire to return a body back to Mother Nature.*

The scientific name for this flameless cremation is alkaline hydrolysis. It is the same process that occurs in nature if a body is laid to rest in the soil. A combination of water flow, temperature, and alkalinity are used to accelerate nature's process.

## Who Supports It?

Trusted institutions have chosen this process for bodies donated to medical science for over 15 years. The well-known MAYO Clinic has used alkaline hydrolysis since 2006.

## WHY CHOOSE ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS?

*Families have expressed:*

- ❖ They are grateful to have a choice.
- ❖ They prefer a process that does not use fire or flame.
- ❖ They prefer receiving up to 20% 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, no emissions, less energy, and smaller carbon footprint.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

*What actually happens...?*

With alkaline hydrolysis, an individual body is gently placed in a container that is then placed in a clean, stainless steel vessel. A combination of water flow, temperature and alkalinity are used to accelerate the natural process of tissue hydrolysis. At the end of the process, the body has been returned to its natural form, dissolved in the water. Remember, our bodies are 65% water to begin with! The only solid remains are the bones.

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

No, the flameless cremation process uses a catalyst called alkali, which is the chemical opposite of an acid.

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

Yes. The flameless cremation process is 95% water and 5% alkali. A combination of alkalis (sodium and potassium hydroxide) are used in the process to dissolve the body. The alkalis used

in this process are the same alkalis used in common cosmetic products, body washes, shaving creams, and even in food preparation. At the end of the process, the chemical has been completely used 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 alkaline hydrolysis process produces a completely sterile solution of amino acids, sugars, nutrients, salts, and soap in a water solution. These are the by products of natural decomposition.

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

Yes, the bone remains are 100% safe, pathogen and disease free. The ashes that are 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.

## THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

The traditional memorial ceremony and returning of the ashes remains unchanged. In the case of flame cremation, the body is put into a fire retort; in the case of flameless cremation the body is placed in a water vessel.

## A GREEN CHOICE

*Why is this considered an environmentally friendly choice?*

- No direct emissions of harmful greenhouse gasses or mercury to the atmosphere
- Very energy efficient - a fraction of the energy used for flame-based cremation and burial

*Since the process uses water, what is the impact of water usage?*

- Virtually zero. The flameless cremation process uses the equivalent of less than three days of average water usage for a single person. At the end of the process, 99% of the water is returned to the wastewater treatment facility where it is recycled in the same manner as all other wastewater.

*What is the water used for?*

- The water in the process is used to carry out hydrolysis, which is the process of dissolving the body into the water. The water is also used for a final clean rinse of the vessel and the bone remains.



## AQUA GREEN CREMATION

A flameless cremation process that uses water instead of fire

A gentle and respectful process

No emissions of mercury or other harmful greenhouse gasses

A significant energy savings when compared to flame-based cremation

A fraction of the carbon footprint of both burial and flame-based cremation

The best environmental choice



**AQUA GREEN**  
**CREMATION, LLC**  
*The eco-friendly, gentle alternative to flame cremation*

2280 6th Avenue, Windom, MN 56101  
Phone 507.831.1526 Toll Free: 1.888.838.1526  
www.lacannefuneralhome.com  
info@lacannefuneralhome.com



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