

<b>CEMETERY PRICE SURVEY 2012</b>		Ten Mile Run Princeton	St Paul's Princeton	Highland Hopewell	Princeton Princeton	Rocky Hill Rocky Hill	Trinity All Saints Princeton	Lawrence Lawrenceville	Dutch Neck Presby Pm Junc	Ewing 78 Scotch Rd	Presby Churchyard Lawrenceville	Harbourton Lambertville	Greenwood Trenton	Fountain Lawn Ewing	Ewing Church Ewing	Colonial Mem Park Ewing	Riverview Trenton	Pm Mem Park Robbinsville	
Single grave		\$750	Full	\$2,000	\$3,750	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,500		\$950-\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$2,150	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,470	\$1,035	\$1,600-\$1,900	
Double grave			Full	\$4,000	\$7,500	\$2,750		\$5,000	\$1,500		\$5,000	\$2,130-\$3,180	\$4,300	\$1,520		\$1,990	\$2,075	\$4,000	
<b>FULL BODY</b>	Opening/closing (O/C)		\$975-\$1,275	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$1,350	\$875	\$0	\$1,000	\$700-\$900	\$1,270	\$1,335	\$800	\$1,425	\$800	\$1,035	\$800-\$1,175	
	O/C Saturday		\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$450	\$400	\$0			\$585	\$200	\$150	\$200	\$150	\$1,470	\$200	
	O/C Sunday													\$700	\$200	\$700		\$500	
	Vault required	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		Y	
	Shroud (no casket)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y			
	# per plot	1-2	1-2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2-3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1-2
	Mausoleum	N			N	N	N	N	N	Full	N	N	\$10K+	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$3,600	N	4600+	
<b>CREMATION</b>	Opening/closing (O/C)		\$400	\$400	\$400	\$335	\$650	\$400		\$350	\$30	\$550	\$575		\$895		\$385		
	O/C Saturday		\$800	\$800	\$800	\$385		\$600				\$1,855					\$504		
	# per plot	2	4	4	5	4	4	4		No limit	4		2	2-3	3	2-3	4		
	Urn required	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N		Y		Y		
	Vault required	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	
Columbarium		N		\$1,200	N	N	N	N	\$550+	N	N	N	\$1,600	\$1,760	\$1,600	N	\$1,600		
Tent rental			\$400	\$200	\$400	N		\$200					\$265	\$40		\$40			

**Single and Double Graves:** Most prices above refer to full sized graves though there may be less expensive cremation plots available as well. A double generally means double depth. Cemeteries may charge different prices for different locations within the cemetery.

**Opening and Closing (O/C):** Digging an in-ground grave and filling it in. Also charged for placement in mausoleums, crypts and niches.

**Vault:** There is no law that requires a vault, but cemeteries can choose to make this mandatory. They are concrete, steel or lightweight fiberglass boxes that are placed in the grave with the casket inside. Their purpose is to prevent the ground from sinking as the casket deteriorates over time and make mowing and maintenance easier. No vault (or casket) will preserve a body or keep the elements out forever. If you like the idea of returning to the earth, you can ask for a grave liner or rough box or ask that the vault be installed upside down with no lid.

**Mausoleum:** A permanent building in a cemetery above or below ground, containing **Crypts** to be used for burial.

**Columbarium:** A building or structure containing **Niches** for placement of cremated human remains.

**Volunteers conducted this survey in February 2012. It is far from complete. The purpose is to educate about options. We tried to accurately interpret the information provided, but you should contact the cemeteries directly for confirmation and additional information.**

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**Right of Interment:** When you buy a grave, you haven't actually bought a piece of property like the land your house sits on. You've bought the right to be buried in a particular space.

**Perpetual Care:** New Jersey law requires that cemeteries maintain an irrevocable trust fund. 15% of the grave sales and 10% of mausoleum and columbarium sales are deposited into this fund to pay for the permanent preservation and maintenance of the cemetery.

**Designated Agent:** New Jersey law allows you to appoint a person to control your funeral and disposition wishes. This is especially useful if you are estranged from next-of-kin, were never married to your significant other, or there is the likelihood that your survivors will not agree about what should be done. This must be included in your will but make sure it is also in the hands of your likely survivors now as the will may not be viewed until arrangements have been made.

### **Before you buy:**

- ☞ Think long and hard before you buy a cemetery plot. Purchasing ahead of time may make sense if you have a family tradition or strong feelings about using a specific cemetery, or if you are choosing one that is likely to run out of space. However, it is difficult to predict with certainty that you'll still be living in the area many years in the future, and transporting a casket a long distance can be extremely costly for your survivors. It can be difficult to sell a grave you no longer want, and with the cremation rate rising, it's getting harder to sell graves on the secondary market.
- ☞ NJ cemeteries must file a current fee schedule with the Cemetery Board and cannot charge a fee which is not on the schedule. Get a printed, itemized price list for all services and merchandise.
- ☞ Get a copy of the cemetery's rules and regulations. Pay particular attention to the type and size of monuments that are allowed.
- ☞ Be aware of the cemetery's rules on grave decorations. They may bar glass items, excessive decorations such as numerous pinwheels, picket fencing, etc.
- ☞ Do not do business with any cemetery that will not provide you with this information ahead of time. If their business attitude before the sale makes you uncomfortable, imagine how you'd feel down the line with a friend or relative buried there in perpetuity, knowing you had no choice but to deal with this business.
- ☞ In many areas, full body burial is allowed on your own property; check the zoning rules in your county.
- ☞ It is legal in every state to bury or sprinkle cremated remains on private property with permission of the landowner.
- ☞ Many religious institutions have cemeteries or cremation gardens for burying or sprinkling for members and families.
- ☞ Beware bogus sales schemes offering a free grave to the veteran but charging an inflated rate to the spouse. Veterans and their spouses are entitled to free burials in a VA cemetery and free or nearly free in a state VA cemetery.

**Complaints:** You can file a complaint against a cemetery with a certificate of authority issued by the New Jersey Cemetery Board. Contact them at: 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45036, Newark, NJ 07101 or 973-504-6553 or [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/complaint/cemcom.pdf](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/complaint/cemcom.pdf).