



*Returning to Nature at the End of
Life's Journey*

Scattering of Cremated Human Ashes at Sea

Scattering of cremated human ashes at sea has been practised in some parts of the world for quite some time. From the perspective of public hygiene, this practice does not pose any threat to public health, as the ash remains are innocuous after cremation at high temperature. The Government is promoting scattering of cremated human ashes at sea as an environmentally friendly alternative for the disposal of cremated human ashes, and also as an indirect way to help alleviate the persistent shortage of niches.

Streamlined Application Procedure

Approval must be sought from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) prior to the scattering of cremated human ashes in Hong Kong waters. FEHD is now implementing a streamlined procedure to facilitate public application, the salient points of which are as follows:

- (1) The completed application form should be submitted at least 10 days before the proposed date for the scattering of cremated human ashes to one of the following offices of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Section, FEHD.

Cemeteries and Crematoria (Hong Kong) Section	Cemeteries and Crematoria (Kowloon) Section
G/F, 1 J, Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong	Upper Ground Floor, 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Tel.: 2570 4318	Tel.: 2365 5321
Fax: 2591 1879	Fax: 2176 4963
Email: mailto:cc@fehd.gov.hk	Email: mailto:cc@fehd.gov.hk

- (2) Application forms can be obtained from the above offices of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Section or downloaded from the website of FEHD (<http://www.fehd.gov.hk>).
- (3) Regarding the scattering of cremated human ashes within one of the designated areas as stated in paragraph (6), approval will be granted normally within 5 working days from the date of receipt of a duly completed application.
- (4) The original of the "Permit to take away cremated ashes" has to be returned to FEHD before formal approval is granted.
- (5) If after approval, the approved person needs to change the date and/or time of the scattering of cremated human ashes due to special circumstances, he/she should inform FEHD at once by phone, fax or email according to the above contact information for re-processing the granting of approval.

- (6) Designated areas for scattering of cremated human ashes at sea are as follows: (Details are available from the FEHD website (<http://www.fehd.gov.hk>))

1. East of Tap Mun 2. East of Tung Lung Channel 3. South of West Lamma Channel

(Note: FEHD will from time to time review and amend the list of designated areas for scattering of cremated human ashes at sea having regard to recommendations of the relevant departments.)

- (7) Applicants must observe the following conditions:

1. The scattering of cremated human ashes shall only take place at the approved time, on the approved date and within the approved designated area, unless the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene has given written approval to do otherwise.
2. No food, ritual offerings or any other object shall be thrown into the sea except the cremated ashes of the deceased and a handful ^{note} of natural flower petals as approved.
3. The approved person or his/her authorised person shall observe all other pertinent ordinances or regulations of Hong Kong when scattering cremated human ashes into the sea.
4. The ceremony for the scattering of cremated human ashes on board of a vessel shall be conducted only by the approved person or his/her authorised person.
5. In case other vessels, for example fishing vessels, are present within the approved designated area, the scattering of cremated human ashes should be conducted away from the vessels.
6. In case dolphins are present within the approved designated area, the scattering of cremated human ashes should be conducted after all dolphins have left.

Note: For reference of the approved person or his/her authorised person, the amount of flower petals that a 250ml container can contain may be considered as in compliance with Condition 2 above.