

# Alternative Means of Disposal of Ashes

Upon collection of the ashes of the deceased, members of the public may consider the following options to dispose of the ashes apart from purchasing or renting private niches:

## **1. Application for the use of public niches under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)**

For the information about public niches, please refer to the Annex.

## **2. Scattering the ashes free of charge in the gardens of remembrance managed by the FEHD**

Members of the public may choose to scatter the cremated ashes of the deceased in gardens of remembrance in the columbaria managed by FEHD. Upon approval by FEHD, an applicant may arrange to scatter the cremated ashes in a garden of remembrance free of charge.

## **3. Using the free ferry service provided by FEHD for scattering the ashes of the deceased at sea or making an application to FEHD for scattering the ashes in designated Hong Kong waters on a self-arranged trip**

Members of the public may apply for the free ferry service for scattering ashes at sea provided by FEHD. A funeral director is on board to assist family members and friends during memorial ceremonies, and facilities are provided to accommodate different religious rituals.

Members of the public may also apply to FEHD for arranging on their own the scattering of ashes in the three designated areas in Hong Kong waters.

## **4. Making application to place additional sets of ashes in niches allocated by FEHD or the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries**

The public may apply for placing additional sets of ashes in niches that have been allocated by FEHD or the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries.

## **5. Using the temporary ash storage facilities provided by FEHD**

The temporary storage service for cremains in government facilities is a transitional arrangement. The cremains of any person meeting the relevant criteria are eligible to apply for being kept in the temporary storage facility for cremains of FEHD. At present, the temporary storage facility for cremains in Kwai Chung Crematorium is

limited to the storage of cremains bags only (cinerary urns are not accepted) while the temporary storage facility in Wo Hop Shek Columbarium is only for the storage of cinerary urns (cremains bags are not accepted). The storage period, which is extendable, is either 3, 6 or 12 months. The monthly charge is \$80. If necessary, the public may use the existing worshipping facilities in the columbarium near the temporary storage facility for paying tribute to their beloved ones.

If the cremated ashes of the deceased have been interred in a private columbarium in Hong Kong which has ceased or is to cease operation, the original and a copy of the document(s) proving that the ashes were interred in the private columbarium prior to the submission of the application (e.g. the commencement of ash disposal notice issued by the private columbarium concerned, the sale and purchase agreement signed with the private columbarium, etc.) should be provided when an application for FEHD's temporary storage service for cremains is made. If necessary, the operator may be required to issue document(s) proving that the ashes have been interred in the private columbarium so as to help the descendants apply for the temporary storage service for cremains provided by FEHD upon their collection of the ashes.

For details on items 1-4 above, please visit the FEHD webpage at <https://www.fehd.gov.hk/>. For enquiries, please contact Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office or Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office, FEHD:

	<b><u>Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office</u></b>	<b><u>Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office</u></b>
Address:	1J Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong	Upper Ground Floor, 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Telephone:	2570 4318	2365 5321
Fax:	2591 1879	2176 4963

## **6. Depositing the ashes in a niche of the columbarium in a private cemetery**

Please contact the private cemetery concerned for enquiries.

## **7. Keeping the ashes at home**

As cremated ashes have been processed at a high temperature, they will not pose any threat to public health. Members of the public may keep no more than 10 containers of ashes in domestic premises and each container should contain the ashes of no more than one person.

For matters relating to private columbaria, please contact the staff of the Private Columbaria Affairs Office on 2892 2731 during office hours.

**Private Columbaria Affairs Office  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
November 2021**

**Information about latest arrangements about public niches**

**Allocation of Extendable Niches in Tsang Tsui Columbarium**

The FEHD accepts application for allocation of extendable niches at Tsang Tsui Columbarium all the year round with effect from 1st December 2020. For details about the abovementioned scheme, please visit the FEHD webpage at <https://www.fehd.gov.hk/>.

For enquiries, please contact Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office, Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office or Public Niche Allocation Office, FEHD:

	<b><u>Hong Kong</u></b> <b><u>Cemeteries and</u></b> <b><u>Crematoria Office</u></b>	<b><u>Kowloon</u></b> <b><u>Cemeteries and</u></b> <b><u>Crematoria Office</u></b>	<b><u>Public Niche</u></b> <b><u>Allocation Office</u></b>
Address:	1J Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong	Upper Ground Floor, 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon	Units 3501-3511 and 3520-3525, 35/F, Metroplaza, Tower 1, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, N.T.
Telephone:	2570 4318	2365 5321	2330 5635
Fax:	2591 1879	2176 4963	2333 1716