

Memorial Information Package

This package is to help you understand some of the decisions required to make an informed decision when choosing a memorial. There are 6 basic things you need to know when considering to purchase a memorial for a loved one:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 - Location | 4 - Shape |
| 2 - Size | 5 - Finish |
| 3 - Information | 6 - Color |

1 - Location

If you already own grave spaces, you have the information as to the plot location, how many burials and/or cremation plots are allowed, and what type and size is allowed on those spaces. The rules of the cemetery determine what is allowed on those spaces. The major differences in cemetery sections are between upright monuments and flat (lawn level) markers.

2 - Size

Depending on the plot purchased the size requirements need to be determined.

This is done by knowing the: **Length x Width x Height**

Length is defined as the measurement from **Left to Right**.

Width is defined as the measurement from **Front to Back**.

Height is defined as the measurement from **Bottom to Top**.

An upright memorial will have a base stone and a vertical stone that is mounted to the base stone called the die stone.

Standard granite dimensions are even numbers. Monument thicknesses are 4", 6", 8" etc. Granite is not an exact product. In fact, **most memorials are a little oversized**. If you take a measurement on a monument and may read 48 ½ inches, which is called a 48 inch. If the stone measures 8 ¾ inches, it is an 8 inch. Fractions are considered only when there is a need for the piece to fit precisely into a given space.

3 - Information & Personal Effects

Consider what is going to be engraving on the monument? This is a personal preference. We encourage and help you to make your own memorial. A marker is one of the most personal things someone can purchase. We help you to design a monument that will help you remember your loved ones. Designing a memorial can be very simple. However some people may have no idea where to start when choosing a design. That's where we provide you with a personal touch. We use a state of the art CAD system and our personal touch to make this happen.

If you have very definite ideas about what you want, we will take the ideas and start creating a scaled draft layout that meet the cemetery rules and regulations while keeping the budget in mind.

4 - Shape

The shape of the memorial is part of the overall design. The most common shape for the top of the monument is called **Serpentine** (or Serp). Other popular choices are **Oval** and **Flat**. However sometime we cut different styles to add to the uniqueness. The most common shape for the ends of the monument is **Straight**. But the sides can also be **Tapered**, **Convex**, **Concave** or some combination of these shapes. Other traditional shapes include Single Hearts, Double Hearts, and Crosses.

LITHICHROME

Lithichrome is an industry standard paint that is put in the carving and lettering after the design has been engraved on the monument. This creates contrast and also adds ease of reading the memorial. This is especially true in damp or rainy weather. When choosing a color, we take into consideration of the finish and colour of the stone.

CARVING

Flat or Shape carving is an option for all monuments. The terms refer simply to how the design is engraved into the stone. A flat carving is created by engraving the background of the design into the stone. A shape carving is created after the backgrounds have been sunk. We then engrave the shapes the design to give it more of a three-dimensional look.

5 - Finish

The finish of the monument describes the surface of the stone. There are many options for finishes, the most common of which are described below.

A **polished** surface is the most common for the front and back of an upright, the top of a base and the face of a slant, hickey marker or flat marker. This type of surface is created by slowly grinding the granite with progressively finer abrasive until it becomes smooth and glassy.

A **rock pitched** surface is sometimes called “rough-cut” or “rustic look”. This finish is created with a hammer and chisel called a “pitching tool”.

The most common finish for an upright monument is polished front and back. Other finish options include polished on the front, back and top and also all sides polished.

Grass (flat) markers and bases for upright monuments typically are polished on the top and rock pitched around the sides. Some bases can have a polished margin to add a little more richness if desired.

A **sawn** finish is a smooth (but not shiny) finish. It is created when a diamond tipped saw makes a cut through granite.

A **steeled** finish is a smooth surface, lighter in color than sawn, created by a sandblasting technique. A frosted name panel on a polished surface has a steeled finish.

An **axed** finish is a smooth and textured pattern made by pneumatic hammers and steel chisels. If a surface must be smooth but it cannot be sawed to that shape, it usually has to be axed.

6 - Color

Choosing a color stone is again a personal choice.

Most typical monuments in cemeteries are a version of gray, red (pink) or black. However, many colour options are now available from quarries from around the world.

Dark Blue	This is also called Georgia Grey
Kershaw	This brown, earth tone stone comes from Kershaw, South Carolina.
Imperial Rose	This rose pink stone is quarried in the Marble Falls, Texas area.
Monarch Pink	This granite is quarried in Salisbury, North Carolina
North American Pink	This reddish pink granite is quarried in Quebec.
Colorado Red	This is fine grain red granite that is quarried in Colorado.
Sierra Red	This African granite deep red granite.
Northern Mahogany	Quarried in Alberta, this is also known as Canadian Mahogany and Red Deer Brown
Starlight Mist	This color is also known as Ebony Mist, Gem Mist and American Black. There are granite sources in Pennsylvania and Virginia.
Jet Black	This African granite is the darkest and finest grain black granite. There are several similar black granites quarried in India, South America, and China.

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN CHOOSING A COLOR:

1. Granite is a natural product which means color and variegation may vary from printed or actual samples.
2. Variegated granites are unique! Every piece will be a little different and you must expect this.

Some of the other granite colours available are:

Wausau Red (Wisconsin)	Barre Gray (Vermont)
Meadow Green (Canada)	Dakota Mahogany (South Dakota)
Blue Pearl (Norway)	India Red (India)
Emerald Pearl (Norway)	Cats Eye (India)