











COLUMBARIUM GUIDE



Purchasing a Columbarium

Several essential factors must be considered when installing a columbarium. The following points serve as a guide, though their order might vary based on your needs or organizational structure. Doric will assist you through every step, addressing all your questions and concerns. While each location may have unique requirements, these items provide a solid foundation for your planning.

-  **Assessing Interest** Determine if there is sufficient interest in your community for a columbarium.
-  **Establishing a Committee** Depending on your organization, form a small committee to oversee the selection and installation process.
-  **Selecting a Location** Identify suitable spaces within your site for a columbarium.
-  **Design and Aesthetics** Choose a design that aligns with your budget and complements the site's aesthetics.
-  **Budget Planning** Understand what needs to be included in your budget.
-  **Creating a Presentation** Prepare a presentation to outline the plan and gain support from your community.
-  **Financing Options** Decide whether you can pay for the columbarium upfront or need to arrange financing.
-  **Evaluating Return on Investment** The return on investment for any project is something to consider.
-  **Planning Construction** Detail what is required for construction and how it will be carried out.
-  **Ongoing Maintenance** Determine the maintenance requirements to keep the columbarium in good condition.

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Need

As cremation rates rise, the need for alternatives for the final resting place of cremated remains is growing. Communities are looking for options, and understanding how to better serve and lead them is crucial. Columbaria offer a great option for families seeking alternatives to in-ground burials.

Committee

Forming a committee to oversee the columbarium selection process can be beneficial. This group can range from a few individuals to several members. Diverse opinions help better understand community desires. Including members with technical expertise can be particularly useful. However, keeping the committee small can prevent inefficiencies caused by too many differing opinions.

Location

The location of your columbarium significantly impacts its success. Whether the project is large or small, choosing an accessible, serene spot is vital. Ensure there is enough space for potential future expansions, creating a cohesive and comprehensive cremation garden.

Financing

Determining whether financing is required depends on your organization's financial situation. Some may cover all costs upfront, while others may need financing. Evaluating the projected return on investment (ROI) will help determine the project's viability.

ROI (Return Of Investment)

- The return on investment for any project is something to consider.
- The pricing for a columbarium niche should be at minimum 3 times the full per niche costs.
 - The per niche costs would be the price of the columbarium and foundation work divided by the number of niches.
 - $\$ (\text{columbarium}) + \$ (\text{foundation and landscaping estimate}) = \text{total investment}$
niches
= \$per niche
 - Multiply x 3 = \$ (the minimum to price to clients)
- Total investment of \$.
- Per niche price to clients \$
Potential revenue at todays price \$
Return on investment - \$
- The ROI shown above does not include add on revenue such as engraving, flower vases and opening & closing the niche.

Budget

Budgeting is crucial for any project. First, determine the funds available. Key costs include design, marketing, and construction. The price per niche, both for your expenses and what you charge clients, will significantly impact your budget. You might aim to cover costs and offer niches as a community service, or you could focus on generating revenue to support the site. Ensure your budget is realistic and includes all ongoing expenses.

Presentation

Creating a presentation to share with your community helps you gain support for the project. Depending on the audience, it can range from a simple design layout to a detailed plan. A presentation can gauge interest, encourage discussion, and secure buy-in before proceeding further.

Design

Choosing the right design is crucial for the columbarium's success. The design should harmonize with the site's aesthetics and possibly incorporate elements of nearby architecture. The size and number of niches should align with community needs. Implementing the columbarium in phases can reduce initial costs and allow future growth. Offering various options within the design can showcase the value and personalization available. Ensure your columbarium supplier provides unique designs tailored to your community rather than standard catalogue options.

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Marketing

Marketing is crucial for success and varies based on the situation. Some businesses market and pre-sell before starting construction, while others use the construction phase as a marketing tool. The key is to keep people informed about what's happening, the available options, and the final look. Whether you phase in the project or complete it all at once, providing a visual layout of the finished area will be beneficial.

Construction

The big day has arrived! After all the planning, budgeting, and designing, construction begins. This might involve laying foundations and other groundwork or simply preparing the site for the columbarium. The timeline can range from a quick setup to several months. Your columbarium supplier should coordinate closely with you and the contractor to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Why Doric niches?

- **Durable and Movable:** Doric aluminum niches are designed to last and can be easily moved if necessary.
- **Quality Assurance:** As the manufacturer, Doric controls the entire production process, ensuring top quality.
- **Local Availability:** With over 100 distributors across North America, you have reliable local support.
- **Lightweight Construction:** The aluminum structure is lighter, requiring less foundation work, which saves both time and money.
- **Space Efficiency:** The 1/8" thick aluminum walls allow for more niches within the same area.
- **Integrated Fasteners:** Built with stainless steel fasteners, these niches don't require extra hardware that could wear out over time.
- **Robust Engineering:** Each niche can support over 1650lbs per square foot, making it suitable for various veneers like masonry and wood.
- **User-Friendly:** Designed for easy opening and closing in any climate, while maintaining security against unauthorized access.
- **Enhanced Security:** Features a powder-coated aluminum inner door to protect and support the granite outer door, with no need for sealants.
- **Customizable Sizes:** Niches can be tailored to any size or configuration, maximizing the use of available space.
- **Interchangeable Doors:** Extra niche doors are provided, all calibrated to the same size and thickness for easy interchangeability.
- **Protection from Elements:** Dust and insect-proof with internal air circulation to prevent moisture and condensation.
- **Non-Deteriorating Materials:** Made from durable aluminum and stainless steel, these niches withstand any climate without degrading.
- **Climate Resilience:** The aluminum alloy (50-52-H32) used in Doric niches ensures durability in all weather conditions.

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FAQ

What is a columbarium?

- A columbarium is a structure built above ground to hold cremated remains.

What is a niche?

- A niche is a compartment within a columbarium that can store one or more urns containing cremated remains.

Where can I place a columbarium?

- Columbaria can be placed in various locations since they are movable. However, local regulations may affect placement, and we can help you understand these rules.

What size are niches in a columbarium?

- Standard niches are typically 12" x 12" x 12". At Doric, we offer niches that are 13" x 13" x 13" to provide extra space for larger urns. Custom sizes can also be made based on your needs.

What materials are used to construct a columbarium?

- **Interior:** The interior of a columbarium can be made from materials such as concrete, granite, metal, and polymers. Doric uses aluminum for its strength, flexibility in design, and durability in all conditions.
- **Exterior:** The exterior is commonly made from granite, but other materials like limestone and masonry are also popular.

Why do I need a columbarium?

- A columbarium offers a dedicated place for families to remember and honor their loved ones who have been cremated.
- It allows for efficient use of land that might not be suitable for other purposes.
- Adding a columbarium can enhance the overall appearance and functionality of a site.

How many urns can fit in a niche?

- The number of urns that can fit in a niche depends on its size and the size of the urns. Niches can be customized to meet specific requirements.

How many niches should I start with?

- The number of niches needed depends on the demand in your area. Our team can help you assess your needs and plan accordingly. You can start with one columbarium or several and expand over time.

What can I do for memorializing the niche?

- There are several options for memorializing a niche. You can engrave directly on the niche front, attach a bronze or other type of plaque, or apply a colored design.

How do I purchase a columbarium?

- You can buy a columbarium directly from a manufacturer. We will discuss the options and pricing to fit your needs. Depending on your circumstances, we can also discuss payment plans or financing, and assist with creating a business case for the columbarium.

What is the weight of a columbarium

- The weight of a columbarium depends on the type and thickness of the stone used. On average, it weighs about 110 pounds per niche, with variations for indoor installations.



Common Columbarium Terms

- **Columbarium:** An above-ground structure designed to store and protect cremated remains.
- **Cremation Garden:** A designated area featuring multiple columbaria, along with benches and planters for a serene setting.
- **Side or End Wall:** The end panel of the columbarium that does not contain niches.
- **Cap, Roof, or Coping:** The top panel that covers the columbarium, typically with a rain drip line to direct water away.
- **Peaked:** A roof design where the top comes to a central peak.
- **Gabled:** A roof style with sections that form a triangular shape.
- **Rain Drip:** A groove cut into the underside of the roof to guide rainwater away from the front of the niches.
- **Base:** The bottom panel on which the columbarium stands.
- **Doors/Shutters or Fronts:** The external panels that cover and protect the niches.
- **Security Door:** An inner aluminum door, powder-coated, that secures the niche behind the outer door and supports materials like stone.
- **Security Tool:** A tool containing the necessary bits to access the niche.
- **Fluting:** Decorative engraved lines in the stone, often highlighted for visibility.
- **Highlighted:** Paint applied to engraved areas to make them more noticeable.
- **Matting:** Rubberized mats placed inside niches to provide padding and act as a barrier between different metals.
- **Rock Pitched:** A stone finish with rough, rock-like edges.
- **Polished:** A finish that is smooth and shiny.
- **Honed:** A smooth finish that is not shiny, achieved by sandblasting the stone.
- **Flamed:** A finish similar to honed, created by applying flame to the stone surface.
- **Sawn:** A finish that may display marks from the saw blade.
- **Sawn Smooth:** A sawn finish that has had blade marks removed for a smoother appearance.
- **Foundation or Footing:** A concrete base that supports the columbarium.
- **Flatwork:** Concrete or paver surfaces that provide access around the columbarium but do not support its weight.
- **Ossuary:** A place where cremated remains are mingled together.
- **Memorial Wall:** A wall used to display additional names, often on a separate panel or at the end of a columbarium.

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