

## **Green Burial FAQ:**

### *What is green burial?*

An environmentally sustainable end-of-life option that allows one to return to the earth naturally. Until the advent of embalming science 150 years ago, it was the traditional way burial took place.

### *What makes something a green burial?*

There are three (3) criteria in order for a burial to be considered green

1. No embalming or the use of toxic chemicals when preparing the body – conventional embalming chemicals such as formaldehyde can have a negative impact on the environment. The body is still washed and disinfected when applicable with ecologically safe chemicals.
2. Absence of a vault/liner – Maryland law does not require the use of vaults/ or liners however they are commonly required by cemeteries to keep the earth above stable for landscaping purposes. Vaults and liners prolong the return of the body to the earth and therefore aren't considered “green”
3. Use of biodegradable casket and/or shroud – a casket or shroud made of organic materials (i.e. all wood casket or cotton shroud) does not inhibit the body from returning naturally to the earth like some metal caskets or clothing made of synthetic material. These organic materials easily breakdown and pose less of a risk to the environment.

### *Are green burials more costly?*

It is more expensive than a cremation, however less costly than a traditional burial on average. This is dependent on the casket and/or shroud chosen, as well as the burial site.

### *Do green burials have to occur more quickly than traditional burials?*

Because the body is not embalmed the natural process of the breakdown of the body will begin to occur before burial. However, your loved one can be kept in refrigeration to allow time for your family to gather for the funeral.

### *Are there local cemeteries that offer green burial?*

A list can be found below, for more information please contact the respective cemeteries. (Source: <https://greenburialmaryland.org/resources/>)

## Cemeteries That Offer Green Burial

### **Baltimore Hebrew Belair Road Cemetery**

Hybrid Cemetery  
2100 Belair Road  
Baltimore MD 21213  
410-764-1587

[www.baltimorehebrew.org/about/cemetery/](http://www.baltimorehebrew.org/about/cemetery/)

### **Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Cemetery**

Hybrid Cemetery  
318 Berrymans Lane  
Reisterstown MD 21136  
410-764-1587

[www.baltimorehebrew.org/about/cemetery/](http://www.baltimorehebrew.org/about/cemetery/)

### **Bestgate Memorial Park**

Private Hybrid Cemetery  
814 Bestgate Road  
Annapolis MD 21401  
410-841-6255

[www.mdgreenburial.com](http://www.mdgreenburial.com)

### **Chevrei Tzedek Congregation Cemetery**

2020 West Liberty Road  
Taylorsville, MD 21157  
[www chevreitzedek.org](http://www chevreitzedek.org)  
Cemetery Advisory Board

email: [cab@chevrei.org](mailto:cab@chevrei.org)

### **Columbia Memorial Park**

12005 Clarksville Pike  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
410-997-7800

### **Garden of Remembrance Gan Zikaron Memorial Park Hybrid Cemetery**

14321 Comus Road  
Clarksburg MD 20871  
301-428-3000

[www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org)

### **Mount Olivet Cemetery**

Hybrid Cemetery  
515 S. Market Street  
Frederick MD 21701  
301.662.1164

[www.mountolivetcemeteryinc.com](http://www.mountolivetcemeteryinc.com)

### **Reflection Park**

*In progress*  
Silver Spring MD  
413-840-6775

[www.reflectionpark.org](http://www.reflectionpark.org)

### **Serenity Ridge**

Woodlawn MD  
240-628-8725

<https://www.serenityridgemd.com/>