

Commonly Asked Questions

1. *Can I dig a hole in the ground so my flower arrangement will stand better?*
NO...If everyone did that there would be holes all over the cemeteries and someone could twist their ankle by stepping into a hole.
2. *I want to plant a bush on my lot; may I?*
The planting of flowers, shrubs or trees is done by the cemeteries' personnel in designated planting areas. No other planting is allowed. If you have a request, please contact our office for further information.
3. *Where did my flowers go?*
High winds can take flowers out of the vases and saddles off memorials. Be sure to place artificial flowers in styrofoam to hold them. It is sad to say, but we have on occasion caught people stealing flowers. If you see anything suspicious, please call the police as we will prosecute.
4. *I placed a poinsettia in the vase with my mums. The entire arrangement is now gone. Where did it go?*
The cemeteries' personnel cleans out the entire vase where flowers are unseasonable or unsightly.
5. *I put a flag in my vase. Where is it?*
Flags or other insignia are permitted on Memorial Day only. This allows the prescribed practice as specified by the Quartermaster Corps of the United States.
6. *Where is the cemeteries' office?*
The cemeteries' office is combined with the funeral home office for your convenience. All questions should be addressed to the office in the funeral home.

General Provisions

This brochure tells what is permitted and what is not permitted in grave decorations. Decorations are removed by the cemetery staff for the following reasons:

1. Possible injury to personnel and visitors can result when man-made articles such as artificial flowers, breakable glass or plastic containers, toys, fishing wires, wire attached to monuments, etc., come in contact with equipment.
2. Efficient maintenance of the grounds, which includes spreading and spraying of fertilizer and weed chemicals, trimming, and mowing, depends on regularly scheduled times for decoration cleanup. These schedules are important for a busy crew which is responsible for the maintenance of 163 acres in Graceland/Fairlawn as well as the facilitation of burials.
3. Decorations are removed on a regular schedule for the best appearance of your lot. We have no desire to displease you and we certainly leave the decorations on as long as they conform to the limitations described in this brochure.
4. Thousands of people visit Graceland/Fairlawn Cemeteries each year. Because the cemeteries are open to the public, it is very difficult to control the activity of every visitor. We regret that we cannot guarantee decorations from damage or disappearance, and we caution you against leaving anything of great value on your lot.

Please note that this is simply an overview; a complete copy of rules and regulations is available from the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home & Cemeteries

The cemeteries are sacred places. All areas, whether new or a hundred years old, must be maintained in honor and dignity. If each lot owner determined the kind of care necessary for his or her family lot, the uniform beauty of the cemeteries could not be maintained. Therefore, a care program directed and controlled by the cemeteries is necessary. To promote order and safety, and to keep your cemeteries beautiful, Graceland/Fairlawn Cemeteries respectfully requests your cooperation with these regulations.

Any decoration deemed by management to be in violation of regulations will be removed and discarded without notice to the owner. Management assumes no liability to owners for its acts of removal and discarding, the guidelines for which are presented in this brochure.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Graceland/Fairlawn Cemeteries
P. O. Box 230 • 2091 N. Oakland Ave.
Decatur, Illinois 62525
217-429-5439

Regulations for Graceland/Fairlawn Cemeteries

Children

Children under sixteen (16) years of age shall not be permitted within the cemeteries or their buildings unless accompanied by an adult.

Loud Talking & Unseemly Conduct

Boisterous or unseemly conduct such as playing in the fountain or playing sports shall not be permitted in the cemeteries or in any of the buildings. Walking, jogging, and bicycling are permitted only on the roads from sunrise to sunset. Minimum acceptable attire shall include shorts, shirt and shoes.

Rubbish

The throwing of rubbish on the drives and paths, on any part of the grounds, or in the buildings, is prohibited. Removing or placing any items from any waste containers located on the cemeteries' grounds, including the cemeteries' dump, is not allowed. The cemeteries' dump and waste containers are only for the use of the cemeteries.

Motorcycles & Motorbikes

No motorcycles or motorbikes shall be admitted to the cemeteries except as may be in attendance at funerals or on business. Vehicles must remain on roads.

Pets

No pets shall be permitted in the cemeteries unless they are on a leash and under control of the owner. All pets shall remain on the roads. All pet owners shall be responsible for removing from the cemeteries their pets' feces.

Open Hours for Grounds and Office

The cemeteries' grounds are open from sunrise to sunset and such other times as may be authorized by management. The offices shall be open Monday through Saturday and such other times as may be authorized by management. Any person found on the grounds before sunrise or after sunset shall be considered a trespasser. All persons are reminded that the grounds are devoted to the sacred burial of the dead, and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statutes, will be strictly enforced.

Floral Regulations

• *Mowing Season*

During mowing season, March 1 through November 15, flowers, other than those in approved flower receptacles, shall be subject to removal prior to the next mowing. Also, seasonal and unsightly flowers will be removed. Unsightly, for these purposes, is considered to mean floral decorations that have become faded, discolored, weather damaged, dislodged, or not in season. Each year on March 1 and again on November 1, the cemeteries are inspected and all unsightly and out-of-season decorations will be removed and discarded.

• *Non-Mowing Season*

During the non-mowing season, November 15 through March 1, the maximum ground type decorations allowed are flowers in approved receptacles and wreaths on easels. Grave blankets or any decorations flat on the ground will be allowed December 1 through January 31. The above decorations may be placed at the owner's responsibility but may be removed by management because of unsightly conditions or when unseasonal. Grave blankets are discouraged as they attract rodents and do not allow snow, rain or other moisture to penetrate and feed the grass. Grave blankets may be removed if, in the judgement of the management, weather conditions exist that cause grave blankets to be detrimental to the grass.

• *Burial and Special Occasions*

During the mowing and trimming season, March 1 through November 15, no ground type decorations are allowed, unless in approved flower receptacles, except at the time of burial and on days of occasions such as Easter, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, and Memorial Day. On these occasions, ground type decorations consisting of tin, clay, plastic, wood, or papier-mache may be placed at the owner's responsibility. They shall be removed not later than the seventh day after the burial or holiday unless removed sooner by management because of unsightly conditions.

NO GLASS CONTAINERS

Allowed Mausoleum Decorations

• *Graceland*

ONLY living, seasonal flowers and plants are allowed in the interior Mausoleum on tables provided by the cemetery. ONLY living or artificial seasonal flowers and plants are allowed on the exterior Mausoleum on the concrete floor. No other item except the above mentioned is allowed. If anything other than stated above is placed by individual mausoleum owners, it may be removed by management. Flowers and plants that become unsightly or are unseasonal will be removed by management. The management assumes no responsibility for receptacles. No decorations are allowed on crypt fronts and will be removed immediately.

• *Fairlawn*

Live or artificial flowers and plants are allowed in the Mausoleum. No other item except the above mentioned is allowed. If anything other than stated above is placed by individual mausoleum owners, it may be removed by the management. Flowers and plants that become unsightly or are unseasonal will be removed by management. The management assumes no responsibility for receptacles. Any decorations on crypt fronts, unless in an approved crypt vase, will be removed immediately.