



Rushcliffe
Oaks

A SIMPLE GUIDE
TO:

embalming

What is embalming?

Embalming is a process which preserves the body after death, because it delays the natural breakdown of cells.

Why would a person that has passed away be embalmed?

The main reason for choosing to embalm a person would be to preserve their appearance for when a family may wish to visit their loved one in the chapel of rest, or when having a funeral with an open coffin. The process also lengthens the amount of time before the body's natural decaying processes begin and can have sanitary benefits as it removes any bacteria or other agents which may cause it to break down more quickly.

What happens during the embalming process?

The embalming process replaces the natural fluids of the body via the arterial system with a solution to help preserve, sanitise and improve the appearance of the person who has died. The solution is a combination of formaldehyde, natural oils, colourants and water, which help to restore the appearance of the skin.

How long does the process take?

Different techniques can be used by embalmers and that can make a difference to the time it takes but the process is still the same and generally takes between 2 to 4 hours to complete.

Effects of not embalming

If you have chosen not to embalm your loved one but still wish to visit in the chapel of rest, your Funeral Director may advise to visit quickly so the effects of the natural process of deterioration are as minimal as possible.

Does embalming affect a burial or cremation?

Having a loved one embalmed will not affect the cremation process at all. However, for burial this depends on the type of burial chosen. If you have opted for an eco-friendly funeral or a burial in a natural burial site this won't be allowed because of the effect the chemicals used in embalming can have on the environment.

In summary...

When deciding whether embalming is right for your loved one, there is no right or wrong. The information provided in this leaflet is designed to give you advice to help you decide when making your arrangements and what you may need to take into consideration, depending on the choices made for the funeral and the family.

