

Methods for shallow burials

Shallow burials

Enclosing the coffin in a compressed cement sheet structure

Typical use of compressed cement sheeting liners for shallow burial

Compressed cement sheeting liners are the most used method for shallow burial. The material required is described as 18mm compressed cement sheeting with two smooth faces and precision trimmed edges. Joining shall be with 8mm diameter cadmium plated, brass or galvanised bolts of suitable length. A total of eight bolts (two per cleat) are required.

The calculation of the dimensions of the two (2) sides, two (2) ends, one (1) lid and four (4) cleats shall be as follows:

- Sides:
 - the length of the coffin plus 300mm
 - the height of the coffin plus 75mm
- Ends:
 - the width of the coffin plus 100mm
 - the height of the coffin plus 75mm
- Lid:
 - the length of the coffin plus 300mm
 - the width of the coffin plus 172mm plus sufficient to allow for an overhang to assist in final placing
 - the lid may be in two sections
- Cleats:
 - the height of the coffin plus 75mm, and
 - 50mm wide

A cleat shall be attached at the end of each side section. Each cleat shall be set 18mm in from the outer edge. A masonry drill shall be used to form all bolt holes and the bolt holes shall not be less than 6mm from edge of the sheet.

Alternatively, angle brackets may be used top and bottom to secure the sides and ends together to prevent shifting or collapse of the liner during backfilling. The angle brackets must be secured with bolts in a similar manner as the cleats.

Procedure of placement

The side of the liner (with cleats attached) must be installed and levelled. The ends need to be positioned so that they butt against the cleats and separate the sides and the structure shall be square.

The voids between the grave sides and grave liner must be backfilled with compacted earth to the level of the liner wall prior to the placement of the coffin.

After the placement of the coffin, the voids within the liner need to be filled prior to the fitting of the lid.

Encasing the coffin in concrete

This process involves lowering the coffin to the required depth and pouring concrete around and over it. The covering layer should be no less than 50mm.

Encasing the coffin in a mix of road-base and cement

This process involves lowering the coffin to the required level and then compacting the mix around and over it. The mix is hosed with water causing it to harden. The covering layer of road base/cement mix should be no less than 75mm. It has been observed that a durable and almost impenetrable protective layer is formed. This is a low-cost method relative to other methods outlined.