

Rules for Columbarium Wall and Urn Plots

Rev 1.0 June 2026



Columbarium Wall



Urn Plots

Definitions:

Urn Plot : Consists of an allocated space for a headstone within a stone surround and a grass plot area measuring 0.7m x 0.7m outside the surround for the placement of the urn. Reference Drawing A in Appendix.

Columbarium Wall : A purpose built wall for the housing Niches.

Niche : An individual chamber within a Columbarium Wall for the storage of human ashes in an urn. Each niche is provided with a covering face plate and secured to the wall.

Rules:

- Galway County Council (Council) provides a right of burial service within a Columbarium Wall or Urn Plot in a number of burial grounds. Persons wishing to avail of this right may purchase a Niche or Urn Plot from Galway County Council through the Burial Ground Caretaker (Caretaker).
- The Columbarium Wall and Urn Plot are the property of the Council. The purchase of the right permits internment of human ashes only. No property ownership rights are vested as a result of the purchase of the service.
- The allocation of a Niche or Urn Plot will be made by the Caretaker. Both are allocated on a next available basis and cannot be purchased in advance.
- Ash urns must be sealed and made of non-perishable material.
- The maximum number of urns in an urn plot is two. The Council reserves the right to approve the number of urns in a Niche.
- For Urn Plots the urn must be buried with a minimum of 30cm cover. The cover must be level with the existing ground level.
- The headstone for the plot must be procured by the family / next of kin and to the dimensions and specification set out in Drawing A (Appendix).
- Council staff or those authorised by same will be allowed to open and replace the Niche face plate . A list of authorised personnel will be maintained by the Caretaker at the burial ground with an activity log. Those wishing to avail of the service can only use authorised personnel.
- An internment in a Columbarium Wall or Urn Plot will be recorded in the Register of Burials and signed off by the next of kin upon internment.

- Inscriptions on the Niche face plate and Urn Plot headstone will be the responsibility of the family / next of kin. Inscriptions must comply with the specification that will be available from the Caretaker.
- The ground outside the Urn Plot surround shall not be altered in any way in the interest of maintaining the grounds.
- The placing of memorabilia on the Columbarium Wall or Urn Plots will not be permitted. Fresh flowers will be permitted so long as they do not encroach onto neighbouring space and are removed when withered.
- The Council and its authorised agents reserve the right to remove non-compliant material from the Columbarium Wall and Urn Plots surroundings in order to maintain a safe and clean area and to provide a consistent and respectful service.

