

Rules and Regulations for the Rutland Jewish Cemetery

The Rutland Jewish Cemetery is a private religious cemetery located on Airport Road, Clarendon, Vermont. It is a non-profit corporation managed by the all-volunteer Cemetery Committee with oversight from the Rutland Jewish Center Board of Directors. Jewish practices guide the cemetery rules, regulations, and policies and are in compliance with [Vermont State Laws and regulations](#). Please direct all questions or concerns to the Cemetery Committee.

The Rutland Jewish Cemetery welcomes individuals who self-identify as Jewish and non-Jewish partners and their children. A designated section is offered exclusively to individuals who self-identify as Jewish by maternal descent and prefer burial in that section.

Basic Rules and Regulations

Cemetery Hours

- From May to November, the cemetery grounds are open for visitation from dawn to dusk. However, the cemetery is closed during winter except for burials, and the pathway roads are not plowed.

Burial Plot Rights

- You haven't purchased a piece of property when you buy a burial plot. You have purchased the right to be buried in a particular space.
- Members of the congregation in good standing in the following membership categories: Family, Head of Household, Individual, Emeritus, and Lifetime are entitled to purchase burial plot rights for themselves, their partners, and their children.
- Non-members may obtain burial rights at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee and/or the Rutland Jewish Center Board of Directors.
- All plots are non-transferable. After purchasing a plot, you may only sell it back to the Rutland Jewish Cemetery for up to the original purchase price minus administration and maintenance fees.

Type of Plots

- **Cremation Plots** may be purchased in the designated section. [4' x 3']-No more than [two] cremated remains in one cremation plot.
- **Single Plot**- [4' x 9']. Single plots contain the remains of one person in a full casket and up to two cremated remains.
- **Double Plot**: [8' x 9'] Double plots or companion plots are for couples and sold together at the time of purchase. These plots are side-by-side without space between the caskets.
- **Family Plots** or multiple plots may be purchased, and we require that at least one member in good standing be the designee for one plot. The plots must be adjacent to one another. Once payment in full has been received, a letter with names added will be sent to the named designee when family members occupy the remaining plots. With family plots, there is usually one centered headstone.

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Costs for Burial Plots

- Refer to the [Price List](#) for plot prices, general maintenance fees, and member discounts.
- Additional costs associated with burial may include officiant fees, funeral home services, opening and closing of gravesite, topsoil and grass seed, snow removal, monument purchase, installation, and engraving.
- A body transferred from out of state must be received by a local funeral home, which is an additional cost.

Religious Practices and Funeral Services

The Rutland Jewish Center's rabbi is the official officiant for all burials at the Rutland Jewish Cemetery. At the discretion of the Rabbi or his/her designee, all other officiants must perform the burial service in a manner that is approved by the Rutland Jewish Center Rabbi.

Guidelines

- A plain pine casket or similar casket should be used without metal hinges, fasteners, or handles.
- Any other container must be biodegradable and be without any metal, iron, concrete, or plastic unless required by law.
- An in-ground vault is not permitted without the approval of the Cemetery Committee.
- Embalming is not permitted unless required by law.
- The body should be clothed in a simple white shroud.
- Green burials are allowed. (No casket is required; the body is buried directly into the ground with at least a depth of 5').
- Cut flowers are not appropriate for a Jewish funeral.

General Maintenance

The General Maintenance fee covers the common cemetery areas. **It does not cover** care for individual gravesites. For example, mowing the lawn during the growing season would fall under General Maintenance care, as would the basic upkeep of the grounds, roads, paths, and fencing. Keeping accurate burial records is also part of General Maintenance care.

The family is responsible for repairing fallen headstones, cleaning headstones, keeping the individual gravesite neat and clean, and raising sunken graves or markers if any of that care is needed.

Monuments and Headstones

The marker or headstone for a grave can be purchased from any monument company, with the caveat that **the Cemetery Committee of the RJC must approve all markers**. Remember, installation costs and engraving are separate charges and vary between companies.

All monuments, base supports, headstones, corner markers, and footstones must fit within the dimensions of the gravesite purchased. The Cemetery reserves the right to relocate any marker to fit within the dimensions of the purchased site whenever necessary.

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Monuments and Headstones continued

All monuments will comply with the following specifications:

The maximum dimensions for the headstone and bases will be as follows:

- For all gravesites, the base must be at least 4" less than the dimensions of the plot and must not encroach on any walkways.
- For 3—6 gravesites, the base and headstone may not exceed 73" long x 48" high.
- The overall height of all monuments shall be not more than 48".
- The bases shall be Granite and Rock Face (rough cut) with as little projection as possible.
- Footstones must be ground level and not exceed 26.5" long x 14 "wide x 2" high.
- **No monument or marker shall be installed unless the design has been approved by the Cemetery Committee** or the Board of Directors of the Rutland Jewish Center.
- The Rutland Jewish Center **office must be notified before** scheduling an unveiling.
- The Cemetery Committee or Designee shall be present and designate the exact location where headstones and markers should be placed.

Tree, Shrubs, Bushes, and other Embellishments

- The Cemetery Committee has the sole right to plant permanent trees, shrubs, bushes, or flowers and reserves the right to remove any plantings placed without prior permission.
- Flowers may be planted in front of the headstone and must not infringe on any other gravesite. The family is responsible for caring for the flowers, which must be removed if they are unsightly.
- Grass is difficult to grow in many areas, such as under pine trees. The family is responsible for replacing soil and grass seeding of the gravesite.
- American Flags placed on Veterans' graves are allowed. The flag should be removed when it shows signs of weathering or by Dec 1.
- Artificial flowers are not allowed.
- The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove memorial rocks when needed for maintenance. **Rocks should be removed** by Dec 1 as they may damage the headstone over time.

Loss or Damage

- Neither the Rutland Jewish Center nor the Rutland Jewish Cemetery is responsible for the maintenance or replacement of any memorial or headstone or for the reconstruction of any damage to memorials or headstones caused by vandalism, weather, or any other cause at the Cemetery.