

How to Package
and Ship

Cremated Remains

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How to Package and Ship Cremated Remains

The United States Postal Service offers the only legal method of shipping cremated remains domestically or internationally. When a family member assumes the responsibility of shipping a loved one's cremated remains, they can trust the USPS Priority Mail Express® Service.

You may be reading this brochure because:

- A relative, someone you know, or a pet has died and been cremated, and you need to ship the remains to someone at another location within the United States or another country.
- You and your family have opted to distribute the cremated remains of a loved one between family members at other locations within the United States or another country.
- You are sending cremated remains to an artisan or craftsperson to incorporate the remains into blown glass, jewelry, or other works of art.

There are specific requirements for preparing, packaging, and shipping human or animal cremated remains. The Postal Service is here to help you understand how to meet these requirements and take the necessary steps to protect this special mailing. By following these requirements, you can be confident that you have done everything you can so that your loved one's remains can arrive at the intended destination safely.

Packaging

Choose A Container

There are many options available to store cremated remains — from simple wooden boxes to decorative urns. However, if you plan to ship the cremated remains, you will need to have padding and two containers — an inner container and an outer container:

Your Inner Container

- We recommend that you consult with a licensed funeral director to help you select the best container. This will be helpful especially if you have plans to divide the remains among family members.
- The inner container must be strong and durable and be constructed in such a manner as to protect and securely contain the contents inside and it must be properly sealed so that it is siftproof. A siftproof

container is any vessel that does not allow loose powder to leak or sift out during transit.

- For international shipments, the inner container must be a funeral urn.

While not a requirement, the Postal Service recommends that you PUT THE SIFTPROOF CONTAINER IN A SEALED PLASTIC BAG

Use Padding to Protect Your Container

If you are shipping cremated remains in a decorative vessel or urn, use proper padding to keep the container stable and prevent breakage due to processing and transportation. For example, wrap or cushion the container with:

- Foam peanuts, or
- Air bubble wrap.



Your Outer Container

The outer container must be strong, durable, and siftproof. We recommend that you line the shipping box with plastic or other material that will prevent leakage in case of damage. Insert your inner container into the shipping box and add padding to the bottom, sides, and top to prevent movement. Make sure there is no movement of contents within the shipping box.

Before closing and sealing the shipping box, add a slip of paper with both the sender's and addressee's address and contact information inside the box. If, for any reason, the address label on the box is obscured or lost, postal employees will still be able to identify

the sender and receiver of the package.

We recommend you use a Priority Mail Express box. The Postal Service offers the boxes free to customers who use Priority Mail Express service.

Clearly Identify and Mark the Contents

To make sure the Postal Service can identify your loved one’s cremated remains during processing and transportation:

- Mark the identity of the contents on the address side next to the shipping label.
- Use the Postal Service Cremated Remains label (Label 139), which is available at your local Post Office™ .

Verify Address, Legibly Write or Type It, and Recheck It

To help ensure delivery to the correct address make sure you have the correct address and telephone number on the following:

Service	Label or Form	Title
Domestic Items		
Priority Mail Express	Label 11-B	Priority Mail Express
International Items		
Priority Mail Express International	PS Form 2976-B	Priority Mail Express International Shipping Label and Customs Form



- Print the address in block-style letters or print your Priority Mail Express label from your computer.
- Double check the mailing address, especially the ZIP Code™. You can Look Up a ZIP Code™ on *usps.com*.

Shipping

Ship Using the Postal Service's Required Shipping Service

The U.S. Postal Service is the only shipper that allows the shipment of cremated remains. Here are the guidelines for domestic and international shipping of cremated remains:

If you're shipping to a domestic address

You must ship cremated remains using Priority Mail Express service. The Postal Service offers 1-Day or 2-Day guaranteed service with delivery by 10:30 a.m. (for an additional fee), 12 noon, or 3 p.m., depending on the origin and destination ZIP Codes location. Sunday or a.m. delivery is available to select destinations for an additional fee.

If you're shipping to an international address

Cremated remains are permitted to be mailed to an international address, under the following conditions:

- Cremated remains are not otherwise prohibited by the destination country. You can verify this by checking the Individual Country Listing in the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, International Mail Manual (IMM®).
- The package is sent by Priority Mail Express International service (with this method being available for the destination country).
- Package the cremated remains as described in the Packaging section of this brochure.
- Complete the required, applicable customs declaration form and indicate on the form that the package contains cremated remains. To determine the applicable, required customs form, see IMM 123.61.
- The Universal Postal Union requires cremated remains to be packaged and mailed in a funeral urn per the IMM.

Postal Service References

Consult Postal Explorer® at *pe.usps.com* or these references for more information on the Postal Service's requirements for shipping cremated remains:

- *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM):*
<http://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/Imm/ImmTOC.pdf>
- *Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail:*
<http://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/Pub52/pub52.pdf>