

# Recycling of Metals

At some time in our lives we, or someone we know, may need to have an operation to help repair a bone or to insert a metal implant joint. When we then die, these metal implants are often still within the body and do not melt down in the cremation process, therefore they will remain in the cremated remains.

Until only a few years ago it was the accepted practice at Crematoria that any metal implants that remained at the end of a cremation was placed with other implants until there was a sufficient amount of metal to be buried in the grounds of the Crematorium. This practice is deemed less acceptable and alternatives that are more environmentally friendly have been established.

## **Why should we recycle metal implants?**

The metals used for implants are from non-renewable resources such as special medical grade stainless steel, titanium and cobalt chrome. If we do not recycle these metals, then they will become depleted and less available in the future.

By recycling the metal implants from the cremations, we at Breckland Crematorium feel we can lessen the impact on non-renewable resources so the metals can be recycled and reused in other industries.

## **The Recycling process**

After each cremation, any metal is removed from the ashes and placed in containers. Instead of burying these metals, they are collected by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), melted down and sold back into the recycling stream for use in other industries.

If there is any surplus money raised from the recycling process, the ICCM will ask Breckland Crematorium for any bereavement related charities in our local area that donations can be made to.

## **Do we have to recycle metal implants?**

Although we hope you agree that recycling not only protects the environment and benefits local bereavement charities, here at Breckland Crematorium we will only recycle metal implants with your permission.

If you do not wish for the metal implants from your loved one to be recycled then we can return them to you.

## **What happens to other metals?**

Other metals may also be present in the cremated remains such as ferrous metals, which is mainly from the nails in the coffin. These will also be taken out and recycled. Precious metals, such as gold and silver from jewellery will vaporise or melt in the cremator and so will be included in the cremated remains.

## **Further Information**

If you require any further information, please contact us or your Funeral Director who will be able to help you.



**BRECKLAND**  
— CREMATORIUM —

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