

10 Mistakes You Don't Want to Make When Choosing a Memorial

1. **Not Being Prepared.** Like many things in life, people prepare for the future. You should seriously consider ordering a memorial for you or your family pre-need, before prices and availability of certain material change. You will also be able to customize your stone the way you would like it and therefore not burden family members with this later on. Many families buy their cemetery lots and make funeral home arrangements ahead of time so why not purchase your stone ahead of time as well? You will even be able to see the finished product.
2. **Feeling Pressured.** Losing someone you love is very emotional and so can the process of buying a memorial after a loss. A memorial should not be purchased until you and your family are ready. They should not be pressured to purchase sooner than they feel they can and should. Depending on the family and person, a memorial can be purchased right away or sometimes months after. Most families buy a stone within the first year after death so they can properly mark where a person is buried.
3. **Choosing a Company Based on Price.** Unfortunately many people spend more time planning a vacation than they do on choosing an appropriate memorial. During this time, you are going to want the best service and professionalism as possible that fits within your budget. An experienced monument company should be able to guide you respectfully and efficiently through the step by step process and answer any questions you may have and should also be able to show you the differences the details can make.
4. **Lack of Knowledge of the Process.** Without knowing what steps to take during this emotional time could put an additional load of stress on you and your family. Style, Size, Color, Design, Lettering and Additional features are the main things you need to decide when purchasing a memorial. You can go to www.QuincyMemorials.com for a list of the steps with examples that you should take to ensure a smooth and simple process during this distressing time.
5. **Not Familiarizing with Cemetery Restrictions.** Many cemeteries have restrictions on what size, style and type of stone you can place on your lot. Most monument companies will know about certain cemetery restrictions, but it makes it easier for you to decide what you prefer ahead of time if you know what you are allowed to place there. Remember to ask the cemetery while getting your lot about any restrictions, rules, or regulations associated with your lot or the cemetery. Bring your lot information to the monument company to ensure a smoother process.
6. **Lack of Knowledge of Approximate Price of Monuments.** Many people, unless they have bought a stone in the past, do not know how much to expect a granite monument to be priced. To fully understand why granite is priced the way it is you must understand the long and detailed process it takes to create. You can go to www.QuincyMemorials.com to download an explanation of the process to create these everlasting commemorative displays. Granite is priced based on four major factors, color, size, shape and design. Pricing can range from under a thousand to several thousand depending on the intricacy and size of the memorial. Call a monument company for general pricing, but be prepared to answer a few clarification questions first before receiving an accurate price.
7. **Failing to ask what is Included in the Price.** Be sure to ask what is included in the price of the memorial. The price may or may not include the Family Name lettering, person deceased name and dates, and installation of the stone. To be safe, ask if there are any additional charges that will be applied to the order.
8. **Waiting until the last Minute.** If you need the memorial completed by a certain date, make sure to give plenty of lead time. Remember, the more customized the stone, the longer it will take. In the winter months it is difficult and sometimes even impossible to set a stone or pour a foundation for a stone. For this reason many stones are installed come the Spring when the weather is nicer. Memorial Day is a busy time so if this is an important deadline then make sure to come even months before to be sure it is completed before then. The entire process can take several weeks.
9. **Not Asking Enough Questions.** Try not to assume. The process should be seamless if done correctly and efficiently. Don't be afraid to ask as many questions as you want. The people handling this process for you are there to serve you to make it simple and easy to understand. Be aware of places that do not seem to ask you enough questions about your current situations. A good monument company should ask a lot of questions in order to ensure you get the best and most accurate service.
10. **Lack of Knowledge of Materials.** Some early monuments were built of bone, wood, or anything else that was around, but the most durable is rock. We know from the pyramids and many ancient tombs that rock can be everlasting. Granite is the most commonly used now due to its resilient nature, affordable price and variety of colors. Granite will last lifetimes.