

My name is Larry Kenney. My company, Bradbury Vault Company has been manufacturing and selling concrete burial vaults since 1963. Since we started selling vaults, we have made and sold approximately 300,000 burial vaults. We have provided vaults to the customers of over 300 funeral homes. None of these vaults have been placed in the ground prior to the death of the consumer and it has never been requested by a funeral home client that we do so, even though most of our client offer pre-arranged funerals.

I am aware of no funeral homes that request that the vault be placed prior to the death of the consumer. In my opinion, placing a vault in the ground prior to the need by the consumer could result in the following:

A. Vaults would be dirty and probably wet when opened for a funeral.

B. If vaults are plastic lined, the unsealed vault could fill with water, freeze and crack the brittle (when cold) plastic liner. Also, a plastic lined vault would need to be cleaned and painted if the family is to get the vault they picked out from a picture of vaults when the arrangements were first made. A non-plastic lined vault would also need to be cleaned and painted black.

C. When opening the grave and removing the lid, the lid would bump the side walls of the grave sending mud and dirt down into the bottom of the vault. This would need to be removed since the consumer is entitled to a clean dry (except for rain) vault, in which to place your loved one. Upon opening the grave, if the vault is found to be cracked, a replacement vault would be required.

D. The vault buried when empty, could fill with water, which could freeze and crack the vault, a crack which may be difficult to see and thereby pass unnoticed.

E. When the backhoe opens the grave the operator of the backhoe must be careful not to crack the lid of the vault with the steel bucket of the backhoe.

F. This would result in additional cost to the consumer, additional handling of the vault, potential damage to the vault and would leave the consumer at the mercy of the provider should they change their wishes.

In my opinion, the only reason someone would place the vault in the ground prior to the consumer needing it is to get all of the money up front, avoiding the trusting requirements. This is not good for the consumer.