

Limited Preparation

EXPLAINED

A detailed overview of our professional Limited Preparation service and what you need to know



THE SEARSON FAMILY

FUNERAL SERVICE

*"We don't just arrange funerals, we create
meaningful days."*

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A Brief Overview

Limited Preparation

Limited Preparation is a process that provides essential aspects of practical care. It is a way to prepare a loved one for visits in our Chapel of Rest or to take the necessary steps to retain dignity and provide reassurance. As the name suggests, this method of preparation is limited and doesn't offer the same level of detail as our more comprehensive 'Hygienic Treatment'. The 'Hygienic Treatment' includes additional steps such as Embalming and Restorative Art, which are not part of the 'Limited Preparation'. However, the basic Washing, Disinfection, Grooming, Hair Care and Dressing in 'Limited Preparation' all culminate into a final and fitting presentation.

Limited Preparation is included in our 'Mortuary Care' charge, ensuring that this process is inclusive and offered to all guests. However, we understand that every family have varied needs, and if you wish for your loved one NOT to be prepared, that is perfectly fine. Your preferences are important to us, so just let us know when we discuss this.

Limited Preparation can be interpreted in various ways. The Searson family has a structured process that is carried out in dedicated, specially equipped facilities by our team of trained and experienced staff. Our 'Guest Guarding Policy' ensures continuity of care and that everyone is treated equally and with the utmost dignity. Should you wish to learn more about this service, please feel free to ask any questions; we will always have the answers. We are transparent and open in every aspect of Mortuary Care and welcome any concerns you have.

Washing / Disinfection

Limited Preparation

The basic principles of Limited Preparation are the washing and disinfection of our guests. Washing entails using a specially designed table that allows a vertical shower to take place. We don't use domestic soaps; our products are designed for a specific purpose and help effectively manage daily grime, perspiration, and possible urine contamination without a dominating fragrance. The use of disposable towels is our preferred means of drying unless a guest has delicate tissue, in which case, they would be allowed to air dry. In addition to a thorough body wash, we also provide hair washing and utilise professional products to meet individual hair needs.

Disinfection is also an indispensable part of the washing process. While washing with detergents is crucial, it doesn't always eliminate harmful pathogens, germs, and bacteria that thrive on most people once they have passed away. It's a natural occurrence, but controlling potential risk is a vital part of the process. Most of our disinfecting and sanitising products are formulated for mortuary use, designed to work without the unmistakable smell of disinfectant. So, washing and disinfection can't be carried out on their own; both processes need to work in unison. Disinfection won't work if we don't clean first, but doing both ensures a safe, clean and fresh presentation.

Washing and Disinfection are the foundations of Limited Preparation, and are carried out in a closed, secure and monitored environment. Only a member of the Searson family performs these duties, and in alignment with our strict Policy processes.

General Grooming

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General Grooming can encompass many different aspects of presentation, and we try to accommodate family requests wherever possible. General Grooming can include basic nail care, shaving, and/or facial hair removal. These aspects are hygiene-related but add to the final presentation.

For the ladies, and if requested, we can paint nails with a colour provided by the family. Nails can often be a distinguishing feature, and hands are just as important when visiting the chapel. We encourage contact, and nicely presented hands can make a significant difference. In addition, if requested and provided, make-up can also be applied, although please bear in mind that the male members of the Searson family carry out this work! As such, you may wish to make your own makeup application when you visit the chapel; the choice is yours.

Hair is the vital framework of the face, and when presented correctly, it can make a significant difference to how someone looks. We can't match Vidal Saoon's service level, but we can go some way toward creating a familiar style. Providing us with a recent or familiar photograph can be a big help.

Most grooming procedures are cosmetic rather than essential care processes. However, attention to small details can enhance how someone looks in the chapel, contributing to a comforting, peaceful memory. What is important to remember is that, however we prepare a loved one visually, we can't take away the reality of what you see, but we can help create a lasting, positive memory.

Dressing & Coffining

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The dressing process is often carried out with the deceased's own clothing. However, when personal clothing is unavailable, we offer a selection of gowns and robes for purchase. Dressing the deceased in their own clothing provides a sense of familiarity, primarily when the chosen attire reflects their usual style. This is not about dressing them up, but about ensuring their comfort and a sense of familiarity.

The dressing process takes place on the Preparation Table in our dedicated Care Room. The method of dressing is akin to dressing a baby, where every detail is meticulously handled. We understand that guests can't help themselves, so we take on the responsibility of dressing them. We ensure that the clothing, even if too big or too small, is altered to create the illusion of a visual fit, maintaining the dignity of the deceased.

When selecting clothing, please provide everything they would typically wear, including undergarments. Shoes can be worn during chapel visits, but they will often need to be removed before cremation. Items such as blankets, pillows, coats, or any other clothing that don't conform to current cremation emissions regulations must be removed before the coffin is closed. If the funeral is for burial, any object can be placed in the coffin.

If you choose to dress the deceased in one of our funeral gowns or robes, we offer a variety of styles and colours. These items are not just for aesthetics but are designed with a specific purpose in mind. They are one-size-fits-most garments that all conform to cremation regulations, ensuring practicality and necessity in the dressing process.

Frequent Questions

Limited Preparation

Do I need Limited Preparation if I'm not viewing?

No, Limited Preparation is not solely for viewing. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the deceased's dignity and in providing a sense of reassurance that every effort is being made to ensure the care they deserve. However, if you do not wish for Limited Preparation, please inform us, and we will respect your decision.

Can I help with the Limited Preparation?

Yes, you can absolutely help. Your level of involvement is entirely up to you. Whether you wish to assist with the hair, dressing, or the entire process, the choice is yours, and we will facilitate this request for you.

How long can we view the deceased?

Several factors will determine this. We keep guests in a temperature-controlled environment, but Mother Nature can only be slowed, not stopped. Changes will always take place; we don't know how progressive the changes will be. Understanding these natural processes can help you feel more informed and prepared.

Will Limited Preparation improve how they look?

Yes, to a degree. We cannot take away the visual reality; the natural changes begin once death takes place. Even though there are various aspects of Limited Preparation —Washing, Disinfection, Grooming, Haircare, and Dressing - they all culminate in a more comfortable and positive viewing experience.