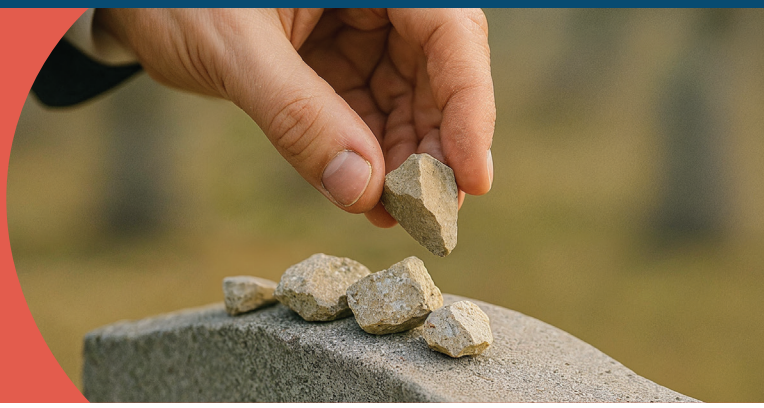
Quick Reference Guide for Choosing a Cemetery

Based on the Kevurah K'Halacha Workshop



Eretz Yisrael vs. Chutz La'aretz

There are many practical and halachic factors to consider (see sidebar).

Kivrei Avos

Being buried near parents or ancestors is a kavod to them and brings comfort to the neshama.

Proximity to Living Family

When family members can visit the kever easily, it provides comfort to them and is pleasing to the neshama.

Exclusively Jewish Sections

Acceptance into the section must be reliably monitored to ensure that only those who are Jews according to halacha are buried there.

Vault Requirements

Vaults present serious halachic issues. It is preferable not to use a vault at all; certain types of vaults are not permitted under any circumstances.

Water Concerns

Some cemeteries have issues with water in graves. Burial in such conditions is a bizayon hameis.

Immediate Burial Capability

Burial delays cause distress to the neshama and to the family. Cemeteries that can accommodate same-day and legal holiday burials are preferred.

Kevurah Performed by Jews

It is preferable that Jews carry and lower the aron and fill the grave. Confirm that the cemetery allows this.

Monument Policies

Verify that the cemetery's monument policies align with halacha and your preferences.

Men and Women

Find out if the cemetery follows the common minhag that only individuals of the same gender are buried in adjacent graves, except for spouses, parents and children, or siblings.

To learn more about this topic, register for the ***Kevurah K'Halacha Workshop*** *at* ***ShabbosVayechi.org***

Kevurah in Eretz Yisrael

PROS

- Offers a higher degree of kapparah for the neshama
- The deceased will be immediately present at techiyas hameisim
- Ideal choice for those planning on making aliyah or living there for part of the year

CONS

- May not be near kivrei avos
- Burial may be delayed due to Shabbos/Yom Tov
- Family members may find it difficult to visit
- Additional costs may place a financial burden on the family

שבת וירחי

A PROJECT OF

NASCK | National Association of Chevra Kadisha