

# Natural Burials

2011



## Casket Certification

### The core concept

1. Everything about our natural cemeteries is as 'natural' as possible.
2. We will not introduce anything that would interfere with or pollute environmental processes
3. The principal is that caskets break down quickly, allowing soil to reach the body soon after burial, that the principle materials are local and naturally occurring (and thus minimise polluting in their manufacture and introduction to the soil).

### The Essentials

- **The system.** We certify any caskets meeting all six conditions. Individual caskets or casket models are certified by submitting descriptions of their components, and any necessary evidence.
- **Casket list:** *Certified* caskets are listed on our website, and in our information packs.
- **Manufacturer claims:** Certified caskets can use the words "Preferred by Natural Burials New Zealand"
- **Fee:** We do not charge a fee for certification. We include such costs in our per-burial fee which is charged to natural cemetery users.

### Compliance

#### Casket conditions

1. Must be made of New Zealand sustainably grown soft-wood, no preserving treatment.
  - Caskets made of hard woods sustainably grown or recycled in New Zealand are *permitted*, but discouraged due to their long period of decomposition. Casket models made of these materials will not be certified.
  - No imported woods are allowed
2. No composite boards are allowed unless eco-certified by an authority recognised by Natural Burials
  - No imported boards are allowed
3. No toxic glues or plastic jointings.
4. No oil-based paints or artificial stains
5. No plastic handles, non-biodegradable cloths or fillings
6. No lead, metal or plastics handles or fixings, with the exception of metal screws and nails.

Natural Burials

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[www.naturalburials.co.nz](http://www.naturalburials.co.nz)

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