

Monument buying guide

Rules To Remember When Purchasing A Monument

For most of you, this would be your first time monument buying experience. You probably would not be aware of the products and processes that go into creating a lasting, unique and memorable tribute.

Cemetery, funeral homes, monument retailers and online monument stores are the common choices to buy a monument. With all these sources and the information that they provide, it can get very confusing when purchasing a memorial. We have attached a buying guide explained in plain English. Make copies of this guide and get it answered when you shop for a memorial of your loved one.

Rule #1: Never buy a monument from a brochure ... not even ours.

It may get even more confusing when you actually begin looking for a monument to purchase... however; we definitely encourage you to go to the display location where you intend to purchase. If you look at two or more companies you may find that there is different terminology used by each company, some similar fact and a lot of contradicting facts. The only way to make sure of the facts is to see it in person.

Rule #2: Make certain you are comparing “apples to apples”.

Keep in mind, just because it is the same size does not mean it is the same quality. Like diamonds, there are many different grades of granite. More importantly, the carving and lettering is extremely labor intensive and can be done in a variety of ways. The quality of your lettering should be a major factor when purchasing. Ask about double process carving and lettering.

Rule #3: Remember you are purchasing a monument because of love ... not because it is the cheapest. Don't cut corners when it comes to memorials. Make it unique, distinct and above all get it designed to reflect the personality. There are a lot of options available that would help you design a tribute that is as unique as your loved on.

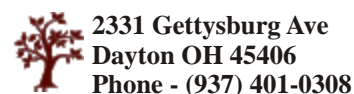
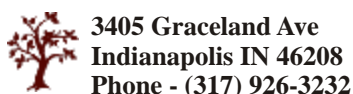
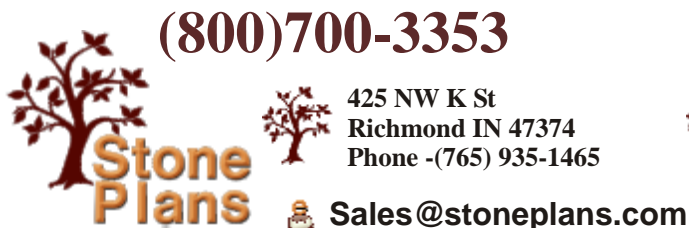
Rule #4: Don't let anyone “nickel and dime” you and prevent you from designing unique features just because it is expensive. Most of the distinct features that are used in crafting a unique memorial will cost just a little more and are fractional compared to the overall cost of the memorial.

Rule #5: Purchase from someone that knows monuments.

Many times representatives at a funeral home or cemetery are working on a commission and know little about monuments. Ask them where the monument would be manufactured and what options you have. Chances are the monument dealers that are involved in manufacturing and quarrying will know more about monuments than the funeral homes or the cemeteries.

Rule #6: Warranty

Several one-man monument companies have come and gone in many of the areas we have served in the eastern coast of the country. Buy from a reliable source.



We at Stone Plans sell more monuments and memorial products than anyone else in the state. We quarry, design, craft and sculpt granite for more than 700 dealers nationwide.

A monument for a loved one is a tribute that should be as unique as the person themselves. We guarantee to bring you the best that you could get. We hand pick the finest grade of granite from our own quarries and craft them with master craftsmen in our own factories. We control the processes from quarrying to installation at the cemetery. We don't trust anyone else with the memorials that tell a lasting life story.

When you deal with us, you deal with the quarries direct. In a typical monument buying process, the retailer that you buy from sources his products from a wholesale distributor, who gets it from the factories that, manufacture them. The factory in turn sources their raw materials from quarries like ours. When you buy a memorial from Stone Plans you eliminate at least 3 middlemen and of course their profits.

We have the nation's largest indoor display of more than 1000 unique monuments, mausoleums, markers and much more. We stock more than 4000 monuments, markers and memorial products at any given time. Custom made or standard in stock monuments, we can personalize it to the last detail.

We stand by our products, no matter what. Our products come with the most comprehensive iron clad warranty in the industry. We DO NOT use any artificial coloring agent or dyes in our granite. What you get is 100% natural granite product that is meant to last forever.

Answers to our questionnaire

2, 3. **Yes we own quarries & factories; we employ over 300 skilled craftsmen, sculptors and etchers.** We make sure nothing but the best is used to carve the memorials.

4. Yes we provide 3D rendering for all your orders. This will show exactly how your memorial will look like after it is completed. For family estates, mausoleums, civic memorials we provide a movie virtual walk through using state-of-the-art CAD multimedia design software.

5. We provide finished product pictures from the factory, before it is shipped out. Any changes will be accommodated at the factory before it is too late

6. Yes, our million dollar etching and sand blasting facility is one of a kind. We do all our etching and engravings ourselves.

7, 8. We have over **1000 unique monuments, mausoleums, markers on display and more than 4000 standard monuments in-stock at our 60,000 sq ft indoor showroom.**

9. Our products are **sold in more than 30 states and 18 countries worldwide. We sell more than 21,000 memorials annually.**

10. In stock monuments will be set in cemetery within 3 weeks of your order approval. Custom monuments will be set anywhere from 9 to 15 weeks.

11, 12. Yes we provide the strongest possible iron clad warranty in the industry. Our warranty is backed by a trust fund. In case we go out of business this trust fund will cover the warranty.

13. Of course we provide free granite 4"x10" turned vases with all your monument orders. Compare it \$250 anywhere else.

14. Sure we provide a custom laser etched portrait with pictures of your choice and offer it free with your order. Compare this at \$250 else where.

15. All our prices will include all the expenses that it takes to set the monument in the cemetery. The only expense will be the cost of the foundation. Cemeteries pour the foundation. If they choose not to we can pour the foundation at an additional cost.

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