

The Online Monument Design Center *Getting Started Checklist: A Roadmap to Selecting and Ordering a Quality Cemetery Memorial*

In what order should I use The Online Monument Design Center Galleries?

1. View our Granite Monument Colors Gallery and make a note of which colors you like best.

For more Information about granite, see: the ***Why Granite?*** below.

2. View our Monument Style Gallery: Pay attention more to the overall shapes, styles and finish features of the monuments and make a note of which ones you like best. Remember: Gaydos Monument Company will custom design your memorial so it is has the exact shape, size and finish features you prefer.



For more information about Monument styles, see ***Monument Styles and Types*** Below.

3. View our Sandblast Design Gallery: Pick out the types of sandblast or engraving designs you like best. You may sort the images by monument style or by monument design type.

For more information about Sandblast Designs, see ***Monument Sandblast Design*** below.

4. Download the Lettering Font List PDF and select font styles that you would like us to use for lettering your family name and individual names on the monument.
5. If you are considering an etching, view our Monument Etchings Gallery. Etching is the process of creating or replicating very detailed images and photos on Gaydos Black Tie Granite using a laser or diamond tip stylus to actually draw on the polish surface of the granite.

For more information about Etchings, see the ***Granite Monument Etchings*** below.

When I'm finished using The Online Monument Design Center, how do inquire about Monument prices?

When you've completed your research, contact Gaydos Monument Company by phone, email or using the contact form link on the Monument Design Center main web-page. We will provide you with more information and pricing for the types of cemetery memorials you have an interest in. We will also check your cemetery restrictions and fees so that you can be made aware of all the costs involved.

General Information about Memorials:

Gaydos Monument Company has been crafting family memorials to stand the test of time for three generations. A family memorial is a monument usually made of granite and it is also often called a cemetery memorial, headstone, grave marker, or tombstone. A family memorial is typically placed in a cemetery at the head of the grave (which is where the term headstone comes from) to commemorate a family member or loved one.

Why Granite?

Family memorials are typically made from granite -- it is an ideal substance for monumental works because of its beauty and durability. Granite is a very hard igneous rock mined from deep in the earth – it is actually the second hardest natural substance known next to diamonds. Granite comes in many different colors and grains, and is excellent for showcasing engravings and/or etchings.

How do I purchase a Cemetery Memorial?

The very first thing you should do is call or email Gaydos Monument Company. We will contact your cemetery directly to determine what restrictions, if any, they place on the type or size of memorial you may have, and the footer cost. [The footer is a concrete foundation in the ground. Your memorial will be attached to it. It is typically poured by the cemetery to match the size of your memorial. The footer will limit movement of the monument.] Next we will help you select a granite color, shape, size, finish and design that is to your liking and within your budget. Gaydos will handle all aspects of your memorial order: providing the granite, handling all of the design and engraving, etchings, etc., arranging the footer, and setting it in the cemetery.

What happens once I order my Memorial and how long will it take to fulfill the order?

The whole process can take anywhere from 60 to 120 days. Within 30 days of placing your order Gaydos Monument Company will send you a computer-generated, scaled, black and white sketch of what the engraving on your memorial will look like. Once your granite arrives at Gaydos and we've received your sketch approval, we will engrave and/or etch your memorial. Once we've received notification from your cemetery that the concrete foundation (installed beneath your memorial for support) has been poured, we will schedule the installation of your monument.

Monument Styles and Types

There are several common styles of granite memorials: dies and bases, slants (with and without bases), bevel markers, and flat markers.

Dies & Bases



Dies and bases are commonly referred to as uprights or upright markers. A die is traditionally crafted from granite and usually has a face (front) that is perpendicular to the ground and is generally set atop a base unit that raises it off the ground. Traditional Dies are typically square in shape and have a serpentine, oval, or straight top. Dies can be all polished (smooth mirror-like finish showcasing the granite color), all steeled (smooth textured finish), and they can also have rock pitch sides and top (natural rocky appearance). Traditional bases typically have a polish flat top and rock sides which are not damaged by cemetery mowers and trimmers. However, the possibilities are endless with dies when it comes to specialty shapes, designs and finishes, which will enable you to give your family memorial a very personal touch. Traditional dies for individuals are typically 2 ft. in

length and 20 to 30 in. tall, while companion dies are usually 3 to 4 ft. in length and 20 to 30 in. tall. Dies are also usually either 6 in. or 8 in. thick. Bases for dies are usually 6 to 12 in. longer than the die, 12 to 14 in. in depth and 6 to 10 in. tall. They of course can be fabricated longer to accommodate vases on either side of the die. Many of the different options are showcased in our Monument Style Gallery within The Monument Design Center. Please note that many cemeteries have sections that either do not allow or only allow dies and bases, and often restrict aspects of size and have other engraving requirements and restrictions. It is important that you contact Gaydos Monument Company so we can confirm these details for you prior to purchase.

Slants

Slants have earned their name because they typically have a slanted face (front). They are crafted from granite and are traditionally lower to the ground than dies and can be set directly on the cemetery footer at ground level or atop a base. As with dies, traditional slants customarily have a serpentine, oval or straight top. Slants also typically have a rock front nose, but western style slants do have a full face and no front nosing. The nosing protects slants installed directly on a cemetery footer, without a base, from lawnmowers and trimmers. The face of a slant is traditionally polished (smooth, mirror-like finish) and the sides and front nose are usually rock pitch (natural rocky appearance). The tops and back of slants can be polished, rock pitch, or sawn (smooth, dull finish). However, as with dies, slants have a virtual cornucopia of design and finish options, which will enable you to personalize your memorial. Slants for individuals are usually 2 ft. in length and 16 to 20 in. tall. Companion slants are usually 3 to 4 ft. in length and 16 to 20 in. tall. Slants are generally 8 to 12 in. in depth. Bases for dies are usually 6 to 12 in. longer than the die, 12 to 16 in. in depth, and 6 to 10 in. tall. Many of the different slant options are showcased in our Monument Style Gallery within The Monument Design Center. Please note that many cemeteries have sections that either do not allow or only allow slants and place other restrictions with respect to size and engravings. It is important to contact Gaydos Monument Company so we can confirm these details for you prior to purchasing.



Markers

Grave markers have earned their name because of their traditional function of marking a gravesite. Flat-grass markers (also called flats or flush markers) are almost always rectangular and flush with the ground so that cemetery mowers can ride freely over them without damaging them. Bevel markers (also called Bevels or Hickeys) protrude from the ground and have a slightly beveled (slanted) face and rock pitch sides (natural rocky appearance). Grave markers are traditionally made from granite but are also available in bronze or a combination of bronze with a granite surround. Although marker style options are limited, they are a very dignified and respectable way to mark a family member's or loved one's grave



and they are available in many different granite colors and have virtually unlimited engraving options. Markers for individuals are usually 2 to 2 ½ ft. long and Companion Markers are usually 3 to 6 ft. long. Please note that many cemeteries have sections that either do not allow or only allow flat markers. It is important to contact Gaydos Monument Company so we can confirm these details for you prior to purchasing.

Bronzes

Gaydos Monument Company recommends the use of granite markers whenever and wherever possible for reasons of affordability, design versatility, and ease of maintenance. However some cemeteries, specifically "memorial park" and "garden" cemeteries often require bronze markers. Bronzes are flat style rectangular markers that are usually installed flush with the ground on a concrete pre-cast or a granite or concrete surround. Gaydos Monument Company can help you with choosing a bronze as well as help you determine the maintenance/care and footer fees often charged by bronze cemeteries.

Memorial Accessories

Gaydos Monument Company offers a number of memorial accessories so that you can further personalize and enhance the beauty of your memorial.

Porcelain Photos

Gaydos offers porcelain photos that can be installed directly onto your memorial... they come in black & white or color and also come with optional bronze or chrome frames or slip covers. Our porcelain memorial photos are made with memorial application intended, so they are typically warranted and meant to withstand the outdoor elements.

Photo Etching Inserts

Photos of loved ones can also be laser etched into rectangular, heart-shaped, or oval black granite panels and inserted into any color memorial. The inserts come in a number of sizes and are bonded into recessed panel on your memorial so they cannot be removed.

Bronze and Pewter Accessories

Gaydos offers numerous bronze and pewter accessories to adorn your memorial, such as roses, crosses, veteran emblems, etc. Bronze and pewter accessories can be installed directly onto your granite memorial or base and come in various sizes.

Vigil Lights

Vigil lights and memory lights can be installed in the ground next to a memorial or directly onto a memorial and are very popular accessories to adorn gravesites during the holidays. Vigil lights come in bronze or pewter color and can have red, blue, green or clear globes. The vigil candles that go inside the vigil light are very affordable and easily replaceable, and burn for nearly a week straight. Gaydos even offers battery operated vigil lights that have a realistic flame that burns for nearly 3 months straight

Vases & Plinths

Gaydos Monument Company has a number of options for you, should you wish to add a vase or vases to your memorial to hold flowers. We can provide you with beautiful polish, turned (round) vases matching the granite color of your memorial that can be installed directly onto the base. Gaydos also designs square tapered granite vases, with numerous finish options (rock, sawn, polish, etc.), and other custom shapes and styles. Gaydos Monument Company also offers pewter and bronze vases and other metal composite vases that can be attached to a memorial base or plinth. Many of these style vases are invertible -- they can be purchased with an in-ground canister allowing you to turn them upside down for protection.

Granite Corner Posts

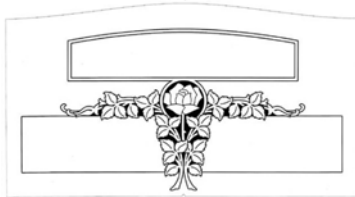
Granite corner posts are granite blocks installed at the corners of grave, usually just at the head and sometimes all four corners of a grave. Granite corner posts can be ordered to match any granite color and may also be engraved with an initial.

Granite Benches

Some cemeteries will allow you to install a granite bench at the foot of the grave to compliment your memorial and they can even be used at the head of a grave or incorporated into a memorial design. Gaydos Monument Company can provide granite benches in any of our granite colors. Cemetery benches typically have no back and are a beautiful way to incorporate a comfortable spot to sit and reflect. Granite benches can also be designed and engraved just as you would a traditional memorial and they come in several traditional sizes and simple shapes, or they can be customized to have rounded features and/or intricate edges. Gaydos Monument Company also provides granite benches for civic projects and landscaping applications. These granite benches typically have a back and can be engraved to commemorate veterans, groups, sponsors, etc.



Monument Sandblast Design



Within our Sandblast Design Gallery you will find many sample images of designs, symbols, etc. that can be engraved on a variety of memorial styles and shapes. Sandblast Designs are also called engraved designs. Sandblasting involves the use of compressed air to force sand or some other abrasive at the granite at a high rate of speed. This process allows us to engrave letters and designs in our granite memorials. When you

order a memorial from Gaydos Monument Company you will receive a Sandblast Design Proof similar to the images shown in our Sandblast Design Gallery, which will show your custom design with all the lettering information you have provided us.

Granite Monument Etchings

While Sandblast design images are generally more elementary, Granite Etchings are highly detailed photos or scenes that are etched in the polish surface of granite. Granite Etchings can be done with lasers by machine or they can be done by hand where an artist actually uses a diamond-tip electro-stylus and literally draws on the granite. Gaydos Monument Company employs some of the regions most talented hand etching artists. Granite etchings are typically done on sheer black (Gaydos Black Tie) granite because it provides the best canvas for showcasing the etching – Gaydos Monument Company uses only the finest black granite in the world. You can view many of the different laser etching images available as well as some of our renowned hand etching work within our Monument Etchings Gallery. For more information and pricing for a monument etching that interests you please contact Gaydos Monument Company with the item code.



Thank You for taking the time to review The Online Monument Design *Center Getting Started* Checklist. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Gaydos Monument Company at your convenience.