



www.westerncaskets.co.nz

MDF - an environmentally considerate casket option

For cremation & burial

Finishes on MDF

MDF is a popular choice, and is available in natural, woodgrain or painted finishes. The woodgrain transfer is a popular economical option and carries the FSC certification. The solid veneers for pine, rimu, and macrocarpa are from natural untreated wood, sourced locally.

Mahogany and oak comes from

FSC forests overseas. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation established to promote responsible management of the world's forests. FSC indicates that the forest has been independently inspected and evaluated according to the principles for sustainable forest management.

For more information on MDF products please visit:

www.daiken-nz.com
www.nelsonpine.co.nz



Printed with FSC Paper



Aside from cosmetic considerations, the choice of material influences a casket's suitability for cremation and burial. Cremation is by far the preferred option at 80% of funerals.

For both cremation and burial, the majority of caskets are manufactured from MDF (medium density fibre board), with a woodgrain transfer or a true timber veneer.

Doesn't MDF contain nasty glues?

The process of MDF manufacturing does not involve the use of poisonous chemicals or heavy metals like arsenic, copper, mercury, chlorine or bleach.

Resin is added as a bonding agent, so MDF burns quickly at a high heat. One added ingredient is Formaldehyde which is less than 0.01% of the total weight and gets completely burnt during cremation. Current resin technologies have made the amount of formaldehyde emissions from MDF panels comparable with that of natural dried timber.

Research¹ indicates that most chemicals in composite wood products readily degrade in a compost pile or the environment.

How environmentally considerate is MDF?

New Zealand MDF is made from renewable, sustainable local forests (predominantly pine). The best parts of the tree are used for structural timber, while the top third of trees, as well as remnants from local saw mills, are used to make MDF.

- Cremates efficiently
- Biodegradable for burial
- Low fuel miles, as manufactured locally
- Environmental Choice NZ Certified
- FSC accredited

1 Research Organics Unit, University of New South Wales, A literature review on the composting of composite wood products, 2007 Second Edition. 2 Peltola et al., (2000)

“MDF caskets cremate very efficiently with little residue.”

Crematorium manager

Is MDF suitable for burial?

Absolutely. In a study investigating the biodegradability of composite wood materials², it was concluded that the materials were aerobically biodegradable and there was no toxicity towards photobacteria (bacteria associated with plants) or substances of

environmental concern in the biodegradation.

In addition to being an environmentally considerate choice, New Zealand MDF delivers consistency, stability and strength, which are vital ingredients in casket construction.

