

Cemetery Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

November 21, 2025

Where is the Or Shalom Cemetery?

The Or Shalom Cemetery (also known as the Or Shalom Area) is part of Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) in Vancouver. The Or Shalom Area is located in MVC on the southwest corner of the intersection of Fraser Street and 33rd Avenue, north of the Old Jewish Section, which is managed by Congregation Schara Tzedek.

Does Or Shalom own its cemetery?

No, Or Shalom does not own the Or Shalom Cemetery. It is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. Or Shalom's agreement with the City designates an area for Or Shalom members to purchase rights of interment (burial).

What is a right of interment?

A right of interment allows the purchaser or purchasers to be buried in a lot (grave) in MVC.

Who can be buried in the Or Shalom Area?

Eligible Or Shalom members, their life partners, and dependent children may be buried in the Or Shalom Area. Note that partners and dependent children need not be Or Shalom members.

Due to the limited size of the Or Shalom Cemetery, the Or Shalom Board of Directors has established eligibility requirements. To purchase a right of interment, you must:

1. Have been a member of Or Shalom for at least five years in total.
2. Have been a member in the year prior to seeking to purchase a right of interment.
3. Be a member in the year you wish to purchase a right of interment.

Can I purchase a lot for my sole use?

No. All burial lots will be shared between two individuals.

How do I purchase a right of interment?

1. Purchaser contacts the OS office to express intent and to confirm eligibility;
2. Purchaser signs form confirming their agreement with OS Cemetery Policies;
3. OS Cemetery Committee issues eligibility form and sends it to the purchaser and MVC;

4. Purchaser arranges with MVC to purchase a right of interment. To make an appointment, call MVC at 604-325-2646. The cemetery office is at 5455 Fraser St.

Does the Or Shalom Cemetery have an interfaith section?

Yes, the Or Shalom Cemetery contains both all-Jewish and interfaith sections. Separation of these sections respects Jewish tradition. You must indicate your choice when requesting an eligibility certificate.

Does the Or Shalom Cemetery have an area for cremated individuals?

Yes, there is a separate area for cremated individuals immediately adjacent to the main Or Shalom Area. Cremated remains may not be buried in a regular burial lot. Interment rights for cremated individuals are purchased from MVC. The same eligibility requirements apply for lots in this area.

How many lots does the Or Shalom Cemetery contain?

The Or Shalom Area contains **64** lots for the burial of 128 individuals. In addition, there is an adjacent area with **12** lots for cremated individuals.

How much does a right of interment cost?

MVC sets fees for the purchase of rights of interment for all burials and related services. For current fees, see [City of Vancouver Mountain View Cemetery Schedule of Fees](#). Or Shalom does not own, maintain, or sell rights of interment.

What does the purchase price include?

The purchase of an interment right grants an individual the right to be buried in the Or Shalom Area. The fee also covers perpetual maintenance of the area by MVC.

Do I have to pay for the right of interment in one lump sum?

No. You may enter a payment plan agreement with MVC. You must provide a minimum of 25 percent of the total cost as a down payment and then pay the rest over up to 24 months without interest. You can pay by credit card. The full amount must be paid before MVC will allow interment (burial). Other fees, as indicated below, are due at the time of need or when the marker is purchased and placed.

What other costs will I incur?

The fee paid to MVC does not include fees for services of the community Chevra Kadisha (Holy Society) managed by the Schara Tzedek Cemetery Board, the cost of burial, the cost for purchase of a marker from J.B. Newall Monuments and installation of the burial marker by MVC. Current costs with commentary are summarized at the end of the document.

What services does the community Chevra Kadisha provide?

- Transportation of the deceased from the place of death to the place where the tahara happens.
- Tahara - ritual preparation of the deceased for burial.
- Shmira - the mitzvah of watching over the body of the deceased from time of death until burial.
- Wages for those who perform shmira.
- Honoraria for individuals who do tahara.
- The casket and burial garments (tachrichim).
- Transportation to the place of burial.
- Facilitation at the graveside.
- Preparing and filing all documents

When do I pay the Chevra Kadisha?

Payment can be made in advance, or at time of need. Note that the Chevra Kadisha will also hold fees for burial expenses (payable to MVC) to ease this burden at the time of death.

Can I purchase a half-lot by myself?

Yes, but you cannot choose the location unless you have identified someone to share the other half-lot with, or agree to share a lot with someone who has previously purchased a half-lot and doesn't have a designated partner.

Do I have a choice of lots?

Yes, if you purchase a full lot you may choose an available location within the all-Jewish or interfaith sections.

Can I transfer my right of interment to someone else?

You can transfer your right of interment to an eligible family member during your lifetime or through your will. MVC does not allow private sales of interment rights. MVC will repurchase lots at a small discount to the original cost. If two people share ownership of the interment right, both of them must agree to the transfer.

Do the eligibility requirements apply to two unrelated purchasers sharing a lot?

Yes. Both purchasers must have been members for a total of five years, have been members in the previous year, and be members of Or Shalom at the time of purchase.

What happens if one person buys a right of interment for individual use and later decides to share the lot with someone else? Does that individual also need to be an eligible member of Or Shalom?

Yes, unless the person is the life partner or a dependent child of the purchaser.

What if I was an Or Shalom member for a total of five years in the past but let my membership lapse and am not currently a member? Can I still purchase a right of interment at this time?

No. You must also be a current member in good standing. If you rejoin Or Shalom, you would be eligible to purchase a right of interment after June 30th of the next year.

Must I maintain my Or Shalom membership after I purchase a right of interment?

It is Or Shalom's intent that you will remain an engaged member of the Or Shalom community. If your membership has lapsed at time of death, you will be charged a non-member fee to offset administrative and rabbinical expenses. The amount is in the section "Current Cemetery and Burial Cost Summary" at the end of this document.

Who prepares a Jewish individual for burial?

Most Jewish individuals will be prepared for burial by the community Chevra Kadisha (CCK). CCK services include transportation, body shelter (shmira/guarding), and body preparation (tahara) as described above.

The CCK serves the wider Jewish Community in the Lower Mainland and is managed by the Schara Tzedek Cemetery Board (STCB). The Cemetery Board sets policies and fees for the CCK.

As of now, the STCB has **not** authorized the CCK to provide services to individuals who choose to be cremated, those who are Jewish by patrilineal descent, or some transgender individuals.

How will individuals who are not eligible for preparation by the CCK be served?

Or Shalom has created an Auxiliary Chevra Kadisha (OSACK) to prepare individuals for burial who the CCK are not authorized to prepare. Individuals who are to be cremated will not, as of now, be prepared by OSACK. Instead the individual or their family may select a funeral home of their choice to perform these services.

Who prepares a non-Jewish individual for burial?

The Or Shalom Cemetery Committee recommends that non-Jewish individuals contact Koru Cremations and Burial (<https://www.koruremation.com/>) for these services. Koru supports the activities of OSACK and is familiar with Or Shalom needs. However, an individual or their family may choose any funeral home to perform these services.

Who prepares an individual for cremation?

The Or Shalom Cemetery Committee recommends that individuals who wish to be cremated contact Koru Cremations and Burial (<https://www.koruremation.com/>). Koru supports the activities of OSACK and is familiar with Or Shalom needs. However an individual or their family may choose any funeral home to perform this service.

Is there an option for green burial?

All burials in the Or Shalom Area are relatively green. All individuals will be buried in a biodegradable container - such as a simple pine or cardboard casket, reed basket or shroud - that conforms to MVC guidelines and Jewish burial customs. MVC does not allow concrete liners.

Where can a funeral service be held?

A service can be held at Or Shalom, the Schara Tzedek chapel in New Westminster, the Celebration Hall at MVC, in a private home, at the graveside or any place of the family's choosing.

Who may officiate at the funeral?

Funerals will be officiated by the Or Shalom Rabbi, the Rabbi's designate, or a Rabbi of the deceased's family's choosing who has been approved by the Or Shalom Rabbi. Non-Jewish clergy may attend but may not officiate.

Can I choose my own headstone/marker design?

No. The Or Shalom Cemetery Committee has chosen 16x20x3 inch light grey polished granite flat markers as the standard design with uniform Hebrew and English font size and style. Those for Jewish individuals will have Hebrew and English text and may include a one-line customized epitaph. Those for non-Jewish individuals will have English only and may be more flexible but cannot contain any religious symbols. J.B. Newall Monuments Ltd. has been chosen by the Or Shalom Cemetery Committee as the designated marker supplier.

I want to be buried in the Or Shalom Cemetery but can't afford it.

It is Or Shalom's intention to create a fund to which people can contribute in memory or in honour of loved ones. The money collected will be used to offset costs in appropriate circumstances. Together with the Rabbi, the Cemetery Committee will make that determination when necessary.

Current Cemetery and Burial Costs Summary

November 21, 2025

Item	Provider	Cost (plus tax)	Comments
Interment Right – two casket graves	Mountain View Cemetery (MVC)	\$28,500	This fee includes perpetual maintenance of the site and can be paid in installments. This will lock in the fee at today's price.
Interment Right – one shared casket grave (a half plot)	MVC	\$14,250	This fee includes perpetual maintenance of the site and can be paid in installments. This will lock in the fee at today's price.
Interment Right – cremated remains	MVC	\$6,400	This fee includes perpetual maintenance of the site.
Preparation for burial and casket	Community Chevra Kadisha (CCK) or OSACK in special circumstances.	\$7,250	Preparation by the CCK can be prepaid in installments. This will lock in the fee at today's price. See the Chevra Kadisha website for details. Preparation by OSACK cannot be prepaid.
Interment	MVC	\$2970 - double depth \$1,695 - single depth	This fee can be paid in advance to the CCK for disbursement at the time of burial. This will lock in the fee at today's price. See the Chevra Kadisha website for details. For interment on weekends, there is an additional fee of \$1,405.
Interment – Cremated remains	MVC	\$710	For interment on weekends, there is an additional fee of \$420.
Rabbinical and administration services	Or Shalom	\$2,400	This fee is covered by membership in Or Shalom. It applies only to lapsed members of Or Shalom, or to those who never were members, such as life partners of Or Shalom members.
Celebration Hall Rental	MVC	\$635	This is optional. Services can also be held at Or Shalom or at the graveside.
Marker	J. B. Newall Monuments	Contact J.B. Newall	JB Newall provides granite markers that conform with Or Shalom style guidelines.
Marker Installation	MVC	\$350	Payable prior to unveiling.