

# What is Resomation in a nutshell?

Burial and Cremation are the time-honoured ways to dispose of a body, since prehistoric times cultures have been either burning or burying them. Well there is a new kid on the block - Alkane Hydrolysis body disposal is its less catchy name, Resomation is its trade name and Water Cremation is its media friendly/technically totally inaccurate name.

This is a process whereby a body is placed in a pressurised vessel (much like a body scanner) subjected to alkaline hydrolysis - the capsule is filled with water and potassium hydroxide then heated slightly (160°C) over a period of around six hours. The pressure, combined with the heat and the chemicals, effectively breaks the body down into its chemical components most of which are in liquid form which can be disposed of in a normal water treatment cycle (the sewer if you wish).

The remainder i.e. the bones will be reduced to ash and returned to the family as in an ordinary cremation.

The company which calls the process Resomation claim several benefits for this way of disposing of a body:

- *A significantly smaller carbon footprint*
- *Significantly less energy required in the form of electricity and gas*
- *No airborne mercury emissions*
- *The sterile liquid effluent is safely returned to the water cycle free from any traces of DNA*

Whilst this may not replace cremation, it may well be a reasonable alternative, and not just for the environmentally minded. If the government need to be stricter on air quality targets then these may be the go-to option, particularly as the family will have the 'ashes' returned in order to memorialise.