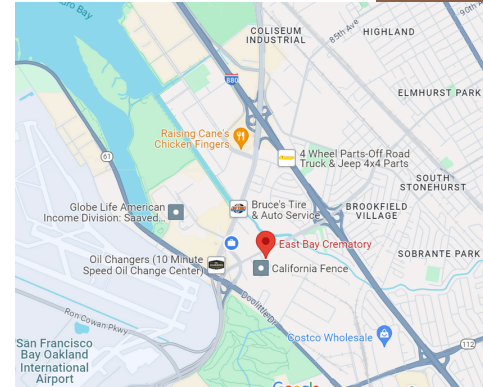


OAKLAND FOR THE LIVING... WHAT TO DO ABOUT EAST BAY CREMATORY?

FACILITY HISTORY

In 2011, there was an East Oakland-wide effort to stop the development and operation of the East Bay Crematory which led to an emergency **ordinance** (local law) temporarily stopping the project from moving forward in May 2012. As a result of the emergency ordinance, Stewart Enterprises, later purchased by Service Corporation International, sued the City and won the right to proceed with general manufactory zoning clearance, allowing them to break ground on the crematory. Although the City passed a permanent ordinance to restrict crematory development and protect community health from toxic pollution, East Bay Crematory had building rights prior to the new ordinance and therefore is allowed to operate under the old zoning laws. In 2021, during the COVID pandemic, East Bay Crematory exceeded its cremation limit in addition to under-reporting their cremation count to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). In response, BAAQMD issued two **Notices of Violation** (NOVs) which included fines of \$2,250 and \$3,000 for violation of permit conditions. In June 2024 CBE and BAAQMD co-authored an East Oakland Emissions report that found the East Bay Crematory is one of East Oakland's top 10 permitted polluters.



East Bay Crematory
9850 Kitty Ln, Oakland,
CA 94603

Nearby landmarks: Airport
parking lots & Waste
Management 98th Ave.
corporate office

WHAT IS CREMATION?

Cremations are a very common and cost-effective death service option, but what do they really entail?

1. Identifying the body of the deceased.
2. Removing medical devices from the body that have radiation, batteries, pressurization, or silicone.
3. The body is then placed in a cremation container like a wooden box (undecorated coffin) or a coffin before inserting it inside the **retort**, or cremation chamber.

4. The **retort** is heated to 1,400 - 2,000°F for 1.5 to 2 until the body is reduced to body ashes, aka **cremains**.

5. In the **cremain** stage, both a magnet (for left over metal pieces) and grinder are used to ensure a smooth result.

6. Finally, the cremains are placed in a box or urn and returned to the family.

COMMUNITIES
FOR A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
established 1978

For more information about the Oakland for the Living campaign, contact Nyah
nyah@cbeal.org or 818-674-8133

OAKLAND FOR THE LIVING...WHAT TO DO ABOUT EAST BAY CREMATORY?

HEALTH BURDENS & MAJOR POLLUTANTS

Emissions from cremations contain **particulate matter (PM)**; *combustion gasses* (gasses released from burning) such as **carbon monoxide (CO)**, **nitrogen oxides (NOx)**, **sulfur dioxide (SO₂)**, and **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**; heavy metals like **arsenic** and **mercury**, from dental fillings; **hydrochloric acid** which is released into the atmosphere from the *retort*; and organic pollutants that form from reacting with chlorine in materials present at the time of cremation like plastics release **polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs)** and **dibenzofurans (PCDFs)**. These pollutants are toxic to humans and can *bioaccumulate* (store themselves in the body faster than the body can get rid of them).

Health Effects

Arsenic: Coughing, chest pain, difficulty breathing; gastrointestinal issues (i.e. diarrhea); abdominal pain; cardiovascular issues; skin and neurological effects; death after chronic exposure

Hydrochloric Acid: Coughing (up blood), wheezing, chest pain; choking; burns the eyes; bluish color to fingernails and lips; death

Mercury: Neurotoxin, affecting full body but most importantly the brain and nervous system by impacting vision, speech, hearing, and walking impairment

PCDDs: Skin lesions and altered liver function

PCDFs: Endocrine and reproductive systems disruption, carcinogen, immune system damage

LOCAL GREEN BURIAL ALTERNATIVES

Gan Adamah at Eternal Home Cemetery
(~28 mi from 94621)

Jewish Hybrid Cemetery

- Itemized green burial starting at \$3,000 and spiritual support well after traditional grieving period

1051 El Camino Real

Colma, CA 94014

650-755-5236

<https://sinaichapel.org/GreenBurial.aspx>

Earth Funeral, a company with corporate offices in Auburn, WA and Portland, OR does **human compost (terramation)** serves East Oakland. Human composting is a process where the human body is turned into nutrient-rich soil that can be used in various planting scenarios, but most commonly with planting trees.

www.earthfuneral.com

Cayetano Natural Burial Ground at Tulocay (~45 mi from 94621)

Hybrid Cemetery

- Green burial starts at \$3,000

411 Coombsville Road

Napa, CA 94558

707-252-4727

www.tulocaycemetery.com

Fernwood Cemetery (~30 mi from 94621)

Natural Burial Ground

- Various homegoing celebration options, but must call or use online survey tool to get a quote

301 Tennessee Valley Road

Mill Valley, CA 94941

415-891-0684

<http://fernwood.com/green-cemetery-san-francisco-bay-area>