A cemetery may have rules that require a cement vault or grave liner for burials. If a cemetery requires a vault or liner it must tell a customer in writing before a customer agrees to buy a grave. A cemetery may not require this if:

1. the customer bought the grave before January 1, 1985;
2. the cemetery’s rules did not require vaults or grave liners when the grave was purchased; or
3. there is a religious objection to the vault or liner. If that happens the cemetery must allow the burial without a vault or liner. But it may charge an extra fee for refilling the grave over time.

Cemeteries may not sell concrete vaults but may sell grave liners. The main differences between vaults and liners is that vaults seal and liners must have two holes in the bottom. Vaults generally cost more than grave liners.

Some cemeteries also sell lawn crypts, which are essentially graves with something similar to a vault pre-installed by the cemetery.

For more information about cemetery regulation in New York, the Department of State Division of Cemeteries, and the State Cemetery Board go to [https://dos.ny.gov/cemetery-disclosures-and-information](https://dos.ny.gov/cemetery-disclosures-and-information)