

# Casket Options in Utah

## **Instructions to make a Casket:**

Ye Ol' Pine Box Casket Plans by Mark Hill 707-824-0268 \$18 He is associated with [www.finalpassages.org](http://www.finalpassages.org)  
This organization has lots of help on doing home funerals and sells a tape showing quite a few examples of cardboard caskets people decorated themselves and how their funeral turned out. For the pine casket: wood and all costs about \$100. All the big cuts can be done at Lowes (25 cents per cut) so very easy. Takes about 5 hrs for a newbie.

Book: *Dealing Creatively with Death* by Ernest Morgan

FCA of Utah sells the book for \$11. The instructions are not as detailed as Ye Ol Pine Casket Plans

Book: *Do-It-Yourself Coffins* This is a casket instruction book for building elaborate caskets.

[www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com) Has all kinds of casket hardware from hinges to handles to adjustable inner springs for sale.

## **Wood Casket premade:**

Simple plain fir plywood caskets with black rope handles. \$200 Call Joyce 226-4701

Alpine Utah \$500 801-809-1951 Mark England Can be delivered for a reasonable fee. This casket is smooth plain pine and comes with beautiful copper hardware. Purchase ahead and use as a book shelf!

**Cardboard** Wonderful to decorate yourself, paint or cover with a tapestry:

<http://www.ncnaturalburial.com/> (shipped from North Carolina)

Custom Packaging Options 1-888-207-4109 order shipped in 24-48 hrs. About \$15 plus shipping (figured at time of order but \$95 minimum. So it pays to order many at one time). FCA of Utah may have some in stock you may buy at cost.

## **Airline Shipping**

If you family member dies far from home you need a special shipping container to be flown. Eagle's Wing's Air Travel Agency [www.eagleswingsair.com](http://www.eagleswingsair.com) (866) 550-1392 can help.

**One option for casket presentation** A **pall** is a heavy cloth which covers a casket at funerals, most often used in the Catholic tradition. The word comes from the Latin *pallium* (cloak). By metonymy (a figure of speech where a thing is called by something intimately associated with it) the term "pallbearer" is used to signify someone who bears the casket.

## **Buying a casket a Utah mortuary- Beware**

-Lowest priced caskets may be displayed in ugly colors and vulgarized finishes to dissuade you from choosing them.

-One mortuary lists 63 prices of caskets in its price list (mostly in the \$3000 range) before you get to caskets under \$1000. Of those under \$1000, there are 4 and the words used to describe them are: Minimum, cloth covered, slip cap, alternative.

-Sealer caskets are a huge rip-off. They cause more moldy slimy gaseous decomposition than any other.

## **Avoid the vault:**

Choose a rural cemetery in Utah: [history.utah.gov/research\\_and\\_collections/cemeteries/index.html](http://history.utah.gov/research_and_collections/cemeteries/index.html)