

Vermont Cemetery Association has some concerns in regards to H3 2-7-17

- 1. What are the best practices for shallow burial in climate and soils of Vermont? Who is doing this? How do we assure that our soils are decomposting friendly?**
- 2. What about smells, rodents and other animals digging up the corpse?**

- 3. What about Grave Wax?** It is a problem in Germany.

For a body to decompose quickly and fully, it needs oxygen to be present, and a little moisture (but not too much). The problem in Germany is that when many communities created their newest cemeteries, they purchased cheap soil with high clay content from local farmers. This clay-heavy soil drains very poorly, keeps the bodies cool, and prevents oxygen from reaching them. And what happens then? Instead of rotting into good old-fashioned grave dirt, the bodies turn into a “gray-white, paste-like, soft mass.” Oh, man, yuckers! But that’s not all – given time, the pasty bodies eventually solidify into a hard, durable, wax-like substance that “when knocked with a spade... sound hollow.”

http://www.sciencebuzz.org/blog/grave_wax_and_soap_people_germanys_not_so_rotten_corpses

- 4. Please do not move this bill any further until the proper research is done or perhaps found.**

From Encyclopedia Britannica

Burial, the disposal of human remains by depositing in the earth, a grave, or a tomb, by consigning to the water, or by exposing to the elements or to carrion-consuming animals. Geography, [religion](#), and the social system all influence burial practices. Climate and [topography](#) determine whether the body is buried under the ground, placed in water, burned, or exposed to the air. Religious and social attitudes determine how elaborate the burial should be; rank, for example, may determine whether the body is placed in the shallow trench of a simple burial or in an underground chamber of impressive dimensions and construction.

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