
Guide for Choosing a Monument

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What is a Monument?

- A monument is far more than a means of marking the resting place of an individual or family.
- A monument is a symbol of devotion. It is a tangible expression of the noblest of all human emotions — Love.
- A monument is designed because there was a life-not a death. It should inspire faith reverence and hope for the living.

Where Do I Begin?

- Purchasing a monument is a unique experience, since it is a decisions about a memorial that will endure for generations.
- Start by visiting a cemetery and look at the monuments that catch your eye — make notes of why you like them. Is it the shape, size or the color of the granite?

Step One: Select the Type of Monument



- Monuments can be created in various shapes; they can be installed vertically or horizontally. Monuments can be found as a stone bench, a custom design, or a statue.

Step Two: Select the Size

- Size influences cost because of the weight and surface area of the granite, which must be cut, polished or contoured.
- The base size for a couple's stone usually range from 4 feet to 7 feet in length. The die size (the upright portion with the names) can range from 3 feet to 6 feet in length. The height of monuments often range from 1 foot 10 inches to 2 feet 4 inches. The width of the die can be 6 inches, 8 inches or 10 inches thick.
- Remember that the larger and thicker the stone, the more it will cost; however, these factors also have to be considered in overall effect that stone makes on the eye.

Step Three: Select the Granite Color

- Color also effects the cost of the monument.
- Different colors of granite are quarried and shipped worldwide. Granite from local regions will likely be less expensive than granite shipped from regions afar and overseas. Also, some colors will be more expensive because stones of certain colors are harder and require more labor to cut, shape & polish.

Granite Colors From Least Expensive to Most Expensive

- Keystone Blue, Topaz & Caprice Blue
- Grey Cloud & St. Alban's Pink
- Missouri Select Red & Autumn Rose
- Medium Barre, Salisbury Pink & North American Pink
- American Black, Flash Black, Impala Black & Dark Barre
- Galaxy Black, Mahogany & Keystone Green
- Canadian Pink
- Belfast Black, Rib Mountain & Wausau Red

Step Four: Select the Monument Finish

- The type of finish affects the cost because of the labor different processes require. Granite is polished and contoured based on the selection of the design. The greater the area requiring finishing, the greater the cost, so leaving some surfaces as natural unpolished stone lessens the expense. But depending on your taste, it can also add beauty to the monument to leave parts of the stone in natural unpolished state.

Monument Finish Continued

- A “polished 5” monument means that all 5 of the visible surfaces of the die have been polished (front, back, top and left and right sides). This makes a very impressive looking monument; however, it does increase the cost.



Monument Finish Continued

- When the sides of the monument die are left rough hewn unpolished, it is called a “polished 3” monument. In this case, the top, front and back are polished, which still gives a strong aesthetic effect, but for less cost than if the monument is polished on all sides. And some people just prefer how the rough hewn sides bring out the natural beauty of the stone.



Monument Finish Continued

- Another option is to add a polished margin around the supporting base of the monument. A polished margin on the base of 1 to 2 inches gives the elegant visual effect of anchoring the polished die. Cost is based on the number of square feet being polished



Step Five: Select the Layout

- Think about what you want your monument to say. Do you want to include maiden names, nicknames, parents' names, children's names?
- Do you want to include a wedding date with a symbol of marriage?
- Do you want to include a title such as Doctor, Judge, Attorney, etc?

Layout, Continued

- What do you want your monument to depict about the individual being memorialized?
- Decorative elements placed on a monument can have personal meaning or be of some other significance to the family.
- For example, do you want a carving of the family farm, tractor, or something to represent your occupation? Is a religious motif more to your liking?

Step Six: Select the Lettering

- A variety of fonts are available for your chosen inscriptions—from traditional to contemporary, from ornate to simple.
- Inscriptions are priced per letter and vary depending on the overall size of the letter being cut into the monument.

Lettering Continued

- A variety of lettering styles are also available: sandblast sunk, skin deep, steel inlaid, polished, frosted edges and more. When you come in to meet with us, please ask us to show you samples of the different styles available.



Step Seven: Panels



- Panels are another option, but not a requirement.
- Panels are thin sandblasted lines around the names separating them from other elements. The panels may be polished or frosted in the center.
- Panels are often shaped as rectangles, books, hearts or other decorative shapes.

Step Eight: Pictures

- Pictures help to memorialize the individuals for whom the monument is for.
- Adding a picture to a monument may offer comfort and peace for those visiting the grave as it allows them to visualize the deceased.
- Pictures can be in color painted on porcelain, which are hardened against the elements and vandalism. This type of picture can be surrounded by a bronze frame.
- Pictures can also be laser etched—however, this technique can only be done on Galaxy black or Belfast black granite monuments.

Types of Pictures

- A sample porcelain picture is shown at top. Price varies by the selected size.
- At bottom shows what can be done as a laser-etched photo. Price varies depending on photo tone variation and size.



Step Nine: Bronze Elements



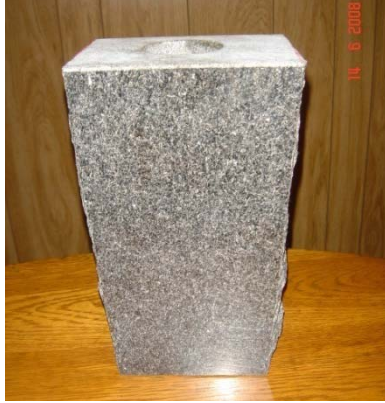
- Bronze picture frames, vases, lettering, and relief items can be added to a monument for a textural aspect and for a three-dimensional effect.

Bronze Elements Continued



- Bronze items are covered with a temporary plastic coating for display purposes. Once the bronze item is mounted on the stone in the cemetery this coating disintegrates and allows the bronze to develop its natural patina.

Step Ten: Vases



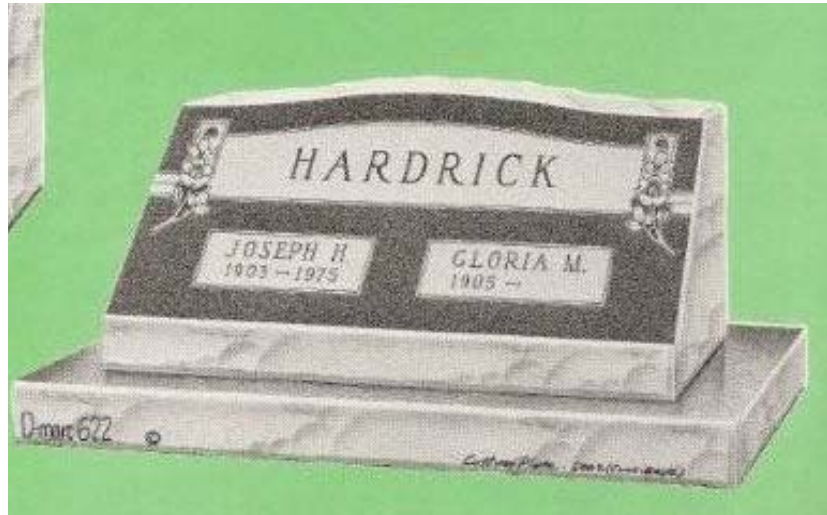
- Vases allow for a safe place to put flowers, protected from the mowers.
- Granite vases are available in two different styles: Turned (rounded) or Tapered (four-sided).
- Vases are available in granite styles and colors to match the monument, and come in various sizes.

A Rough Idea of What a Monument Costs



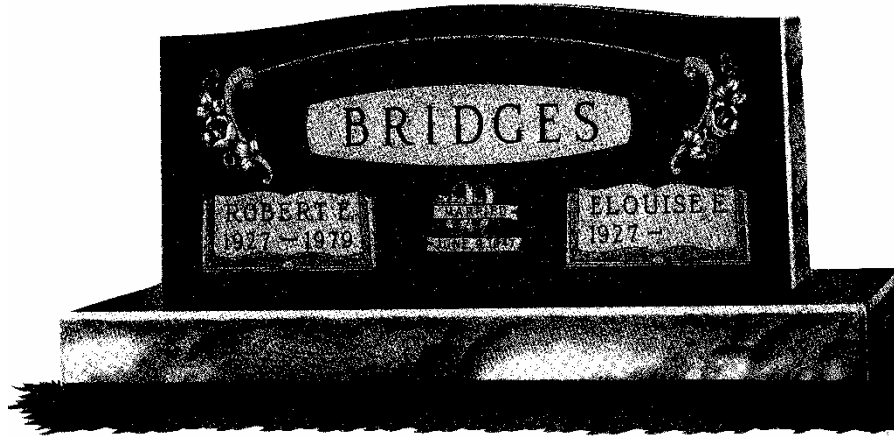
- Flat granite cemetery markers are also known as flush markers. The flat grass marker shown above, polished on one side, is 3 feet long by 1 foot 2 inches wide by 10 inches thick.
- Pricing depends on the granite selected, with a range from \$975 to \$2450.

A Rough Idea of What a Monument Costs



- A slanted marker, polished on one side, 3 foot 6 inches long by 1 foot 6 inches tall by 1 foot thick, on a 4 foot 6 inch long by 1 foot 6 inch wide by 8 inch thick base, with carving as depicted.
- Pricing depends on the granite selected, with a range from \$2200 to \$5600.

A Rough Idea of What a Monument Costs



- An upright monument 3 feet long by 2 feet tall and eight inches thick, with two polished sides, sitting on a base that is 4 feet long 1 foot 2 inches wide and 8 inches thick with carved elements as depicted.
- Pricing depends on the granite selected, with a range from \$2300 to \$6000.

Examples, 1 of 4



Examples, 2 of 4



Examples, 3 of 4



Examples, 4 of 4



Thank you for your interest!

- Please contact us with any questions:

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