

Assembly of your Kiwi Caskets Flat-pack Casket

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Thank you for purchasing a casket from Kiwi Caskets.

Materials and Equipment needed for Assembly:

No 8 size square drive screwdriver (not supplied in pack)
PVA type glue **EXTERIOR** grade (not supplied in pack)
clean-up rag(s) (not supplied)
fine sand paper (optional, approx 100 to 150 grit, not supplied)

Notes:

- The number 8 size square driver screwdriver can either be a hand screwdriver or a power driven screwdriver (there are lots of screws to do).
 - Screws should only be driven in until the head is flush with the surface of the ply. Driving screws too deep will weaken the joint.
- Adequate glue **MUST** be used in all joints:
 - the glue provides the required construction strength
 - the glue also provides a leakage seal so that no fluids etc. can escape while the casket is being used.
 - EXTERIOR grade glue **MUST** be used as interior grade glue will fail if it gets wet from any leakage within the casket.
 - PVA glue (white glue) is the easiest to use, and once set is normally the strongest bond. Usually takes about 24 hours to cure. Is easy to wipe off any excess when wet and for most people is able to be used without gloves.
 - Other glue options such as Gorilla expanding glue can be used since some of their products cure in as little as 10 minutes. However they are quite messy and extremely hard to clean off your hands if you do not use gloves.
 - Our workshop only uses fast acting Gorilla glue when needed for very urgent custom sized orders.
- Our simple, strong design ply casket has been tested to over 280 kg without showing any signs of failure. This is far more than the casket will need to ever be used for as any person over approx. 180 kg will need a larger sized casket anyway.

Materials supplied in flat-pack:

screws

wood and plywood components:

1 x base
1 x lid
2 x pre-assembled long sides with rope handles
2 x pre-assembled ends

Instructions Summary:

First assemble the ends and the sides to form the walls and then fit the base. Our workshop has found that this is the easiest and quickest way to assemble our ply caskets.

Full Instructions below:

Assembly Instructions:

1. Please read right through and familiarise yourself with the instructions **before** you start assembly.

2. Run a generous bead of exterior type glue on the short side of a casket end.

3. Using a flat surface, screw it to a long side to form a corner.

It is important that the screws are positioned to go into the 18 x18 mm timber corner bead rather than into the edge of the plywood.

The screws have much more holding strength when secured into the timber bead rather than into the edge of plywood.



Use the existing three screws in the pre-assembled end as a guide for screw spacing, but remember that your screws will need to be a further 10mm from the edge so as to go into the 18x18mm corner bead.

Wipe off any excess glue on the outside of the corner. Leave any excess glue on the inside as it will assist in making a leak resistant joint.

4. Assemble the remaining three corners of the ends and the sides using glue and screws to form the walls of your casket.

5. Select which of the two large boards you want for the lid and put it aside. The remaining board will be the base of the casket.



6. Run a generous bead of glue on the corner 18mm x18mm beading of the edge of the box (the casket walls) you have created. If at any time during assembly the glue gets spread or smeared out of the joint, put in extra glue. It is far better to have to clean up some excess glue during assembly than to have a poor glue seal and have to clean up a leak from the casket later.

7. Place the base on the walls and align it.



8. Starting at a corner work along the short end wall of the casket attaching the base. Remember to screw into the 18x18 timber corner bead rather than the edge of the ply. Screws will need to be about 200 mm apart. Use the positioning of the screws in the pre-assembled ends and sides as a guide.

9. Work along a long side attaching the base. The side will have some flexibility and can be flexed to align it to the edge of the base board. Screws will need to be about 200 mm apart. Use the positioning of the screws in the pre-assembled side as a guide.

10. Work along the second long side attaching it to the base before attaching the end. It is easier to flex

the side to align it with the base if attaching the second end is left to last.

11. Attach the final end.
12. Clean up any excess glue on the outside of the casket.
13. Once the glue has cured, lightly sand edges and any broken fibres around screw sites to remove any potential splinters.

14. Turn casket over (right side up) and ensure that all joints are watertight. Run extra glue into any gaps in the corners to create watertight seal.

15. Do **NOT** attach feet, runners or anything else underneath the base if the casket is to be used for cremation. Crematoria require caskets and coffins to have completely flat bases so as to be able to be handled by their equipment.



16. Decorate as you wish to create a unique casket for your loved one. Paint it, write messages on it, line it with cloth.. If cremating, some crematoria insist on acrylic type paints rather than oil based paints. Oil based paints are more difficult for them to cremate to an approved “clean air” standard. Please check with your crematorium.

17. Finally when using the casket attach the lid before heading to the crematorium or cemetery.

The lid does not normally require glue or other joint sealing. A lid requires a minimum of 4 screws (one each corner) so that it does not come off during handling at a crematorium. If a funeral director is involved in any stage of transport they also prefer to have a completely flat bottom on the casket.

Land burial can sometimes be done without a lid thus effectively making the casket a shroud carrier. Check your cemetery's regulations.

However, if the deceased has died from a communicable disease, NZ legislation requires that the casket is fully sealed with a lid as soon as the deceased is placed into it. Use plenty of glue and screws on the lid to achieve this. NO OPEN casket viewing is permitted and the deceased needs to be very effectively quarantined until either cremation or burial.

Recommended reading:

There is lots more information about preparing and conducting a funeral yourself at:
www.diyfuneral.co.nz

If you want any further info please don't hesitate to contact us.